**Question: Discuss the factors responsible for the growth of Colonialism in different parts of the world.**

**Answer**

The policy of colonialism that a nation adopts is motivated by a number of possible gains that it can secure through its domination over the colonies. The causes for the growth of colonialism are elaborately explained as follows;

1. **Economic Gains:** One of the primary causes of colonialism is to secure economic gains by utilizing and exploiting the new material potential of the subject nations. The search for markets, for getting vital new materials and for selling the goods and the quest for new areas of investment of surplus capital, provide a strong motive for the pursuance of a colonialist policy. In the words of Dr. Heinrich Schnee, “Great industrial nations need colonies to supply them with new materials.”
2. **Powers and Prestige:** To be more and more powerful and thus secure prestige in international relations has been a psychological motive behind the policy of colonialism. The lust for adventure, power, prestige and glory which result from a vast colonial empire provides a strong desire to the policy of colonialism. More over the pride and superiority provides a powerful psychological motive to colonialism. The colonial possession is always considered as an addition to the national prestige of the colonial states.
3. **White Man’s Burden or Humanitarian Motive:** The Supporters of colonial advocate that it is motivated by humanitarian motive of uplifting the poor and backward people – the non-white people. It is projected, as R. Kipling observes, “the white man’s burden to help the development of others.”

Such a notion is based on the view that the white race is a superior race and it is its duty to uplift the inferior races. The supporters of colonialism view that colonialism helps the people of colonies in abolishing the ignorance, slavery and cannibalism.

1. **Nationalism:** Nationalism is one of the fundamental causes of for the growth of colonialism. As Hans Kohn observes, “Imperialism is for the most part of later phase in the process begun by nationalism. Nationalism strives to unite the members of the nation, politically and territorially, in state organization. When the state is accomplished, the struggle for the possession of earth proceeds further… thus imperialism and nationalism are interlocked.”

1. **Securing National Defence:** The control over the men and material resources of the colonial possessions considerably strengthens the ability of the colonial power to defend itself in wars from other states. In the two World Wars, Britain depended very heavily upon Indian and other colonies for supply of soldiers and vital resources for the defence of British Empire.
2. **Adjustment of Surplus Population:** One of the most important reasons for the establishment of colonies is to adjust surplus population in overseas colonies and territories. In past many nations adjusted their poly of colonial acquisitions on the basis of necessity of adjusting their surplus populations. Mussolini’s Fascism openly advocated “Italy’s surplus manpower must be emigrating.” Thus, the need to send surplus population abroad has been one of the causes of imperialism.
3. **European Rivalry:** The exploration and colonization was started by Spain and Portugal. Gradually, other countries like France and England also entered the race. Acquiring new colonies became a thing of national pride. Moreover, due to various economic benefits of colonization, a stage of ‘competitive colonialism’ started among the European powers.
4. **To Spread Christianity:** During the Age of Discovery; the Catholic Church started a major effort to spread Christianity in the New World by converting indigenous peoples. As such, the establishment of Christian missions went simultaneously with the colonizing efforts of European powers such as Spain, France and Portugal.
5. **Push Factors:** The enclosure movement, taking land out of cultivation and converting it into pastureland for sheep, was creating a surplus population. Sheep rising, more profitable than traditional agriculture, required fewer labourers. The new lands in America gave these unemployed a place to work.

Besides these primary reasons of colonialism, the desire to spread a particular religion in other parts of the world, the need for maintaining a particular balance of power, the desire to spread a particular ideology and the desire to export ideological revolutions to other countries have been the reasons of colonialism.