

Africa and Asia in the Era of Independence

Mr. Millhouse
World History AP
Spring 2008

Decolonization of India and Africa

Decolonization

- Anti-colonial nationalism surged after WWII
- The process of decolonization followed two broad patterns:
 - Negotiated independence
 - Tropical dependencies (Indian subcontinent and much of Africa)
 - Incomplete decolonization
 - Contested settler colonies (Algeria and South Africa)
 - Often violent (Algeria and Kenya)
 - Guerrilla Warfare (Mau Mau in Kenya)

Decolonization in 20th Century



Leadership

- Western educated middle class
- Charismatic
- Support violence and non-violence



Left to right: Jomo Kenyatta, Ho Chi Minh, Kwame Nkrumah, Mahatma Gandhi

Nationalism

- Egypt
 - Existed before British occupation
 - Waf'd Party
- India
 - Indian National Congress
 - Hindered by religious diversity
- Africa
 - Pan-Africanism
 - Negritude
 - Hindered by ethnic diversity
- Zionism
 - Balfour Declaration
 - Opposed by Pan-Arabism

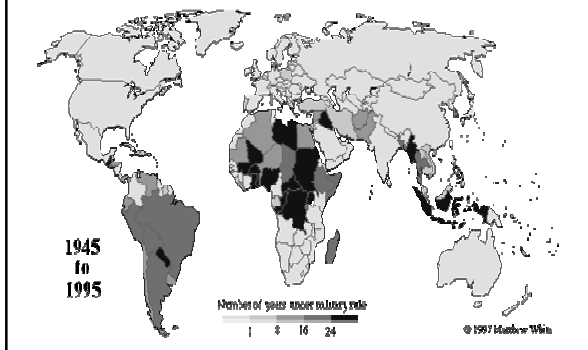
Problems After Independence

- Colonial Legacy
- The Population “Bomb”
- Parasitic Cities & Endangered ecosystems
- Women’s Subordination
- Neocolonialism
- Political Instability

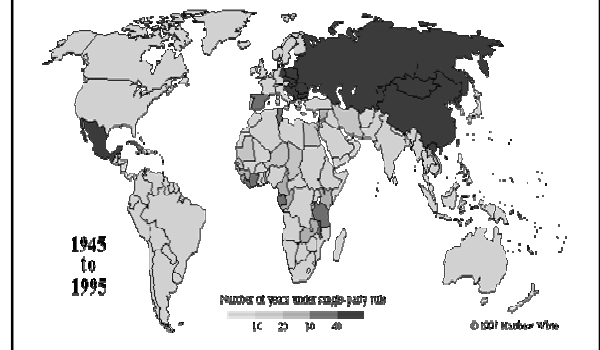
Democracy in 20th Century



Dictatorships in the 20th Century



One Party States



Africa After Independence

Africa After Independence

- Challenges facing African states
 - Arbitrary borders caused ethnic divisions that made national unity difficult
 - Poverty of African people increased tensions
 - Nations could not acquire capital needed to build sound infrastructure
- Organization of African Unity (1963)
 - Created to recognize and prevent conflicts that might lead to Western intervention
- Most states end up one-party dictatorships

Charismatic Populism: Ghana

- Kwame Nkrumah
 - Committed to social & economic reform
 - Reforms hindered by lack of education, industrialization, and decline of cocoa prices
 - Leftist (socialist) leanings won support from Soviets & alienated Western investors
 - Ruled as a authoritarian dictator
 - Crushes political opposition, staged “events” and manipulated history, and dedicated monuments to the revolution
 - Part of nonalignment movement

Eerie similarities?



Military Dictatorships and Revolutions

- Ivory Coast, Kenya, and Zimbabwe
- Why military dictatorships?
 - Difficulties facing countries after independence
 - Military is more resistant to religious and ethnic rivalries
 - A monopoly of force
 - A degree of technical training
 - Most are staunchly anticommunist

Military Dictatorship: Egypt

- Gamal Abdel Nasser
 - Leader of the Free Officers movement, seized power in 1952
 - Embarrassed by defeat in Arab-Israeli War of 1948
 - Eliminates all political parties by 1954
 - Convinced only the state could carry out essential social and economic reforms
 - Land reform, state-financed education, subsidies to lower food costs, emphasized industrial growth
 - Restricted foreign investment

Military Dictatorship: Egypt

- Gamal Abdel Nasser
 - Pledged to oppose Israel and command the Arab world
 - Pan-Arabism
 - Adopted an internationalist position
 - Built the Aswan Dam
 - Reforms foiled by bureaucratic corruption, lack of Western investment, and population growth



South Africa

- South Africa became independent part of British Commonwealth
- Afrikaner National Party institutes policy of apartheid in 1948
 - Blacks make up 75% of population; given 13% of the land
- African National Congress was formed in 1912
 - Led violent protests against apartheid in 1960

End of Apartheid

- Nelson Mandela, leader of ANC, arrested in 1960
- Black protests of apartheid increase in 1980s
 - Bishop Desmond Tutu encourages international embargo of South Africa
 - Gain worldwide attention due to television
- F.W. De Klerk frees Mandela in 1990
- Parliament repeals apartheid laws in 1990-1991

South Africa After Apartheid



- First free election occurred in 1994
 - Mandela and the ANC won a majority of votes
- New constitution passed in 1996
 - Includes U.S. style Bill of Rights

India After Independence

Independent India

- Largest democracy on Earth
- Advantages
 - Military defends secular democracy
 - Came to independence with a larger industrial and scientific center, better communication system, and larger, more skilled middle class
- Disadvantages
 - Population growth, poverty, unemployment, religious & ethnic diversity, and natural disasters

Independent India

- Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Dedicated to economic development and preservation of civil liberties
 - Social reforms to help lower castes and women
- Indira Gandhi
 - Tried to limit freedom of press
 - Proposed involuntary sterilization to slow population growth



Indian Economy



- Mix of private and state initiatives
- Green Revolution
 - Introduction of improved seed strains, fertilizers, and irrigation
 - Credited for averting a global famine
- Growing middle class
- World largest film industry

Middle East after World War II

Arab Independence

- Saudi Arabia remained independent after World War I
- Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan gained independence after World War II with little difficulty
- Complete autonomy was difficult
 - Egypt due to Suez Canal
 - Cold War tensions
 - Other states due to oil

Creation of Israel



- Israel seized control of Jerusalem & all of Palestine except the West Bank & Gaza Strip in 1949
- Israel easily wins the Arab-Israeli War of 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973

Arab Nationalism

- Problems facing Arab nationalism
 - Cold War splits nations as some allied with the U.S. and others the USSR
 - Differing government types (monarchy, military dictatorships, Islamic revolutionary)
 - Sunni-Shi'a split
- Anwar Sadat facilitated peace process between Arab world & Israel (1978-1980)
 - His reward? He was assassinated in 1981

Palestinian Liberation Organization

- Created in 1964 by Yasser Arafat to promote Palestinian rights
- Often resorted to violence against Israel
- Negotiated limited Palestinian self-rule in 1993 and 1995



Yasser Arafat, founder of the PLO, and Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, shake hands after signing the Oslo Accords in 1994

Iranian Revolution

- Preliminary Phase
 - U.S. backed Shah Reza Pahlavi used oil profit to industrialize
- Initial Phase
 - Sit-ins, riots, exile of Ayatollah from Iraq
- Radical Phase
 - Shah overthrown by Ayatollah Khomeini
 - Ayatollah proclaimed himself "jurisprudent"



Ayatollah Khomeini

Recovery Phase

- Shiite Fundamentalist
 - Bans alcohol, coeducational classrooms, mixed swimming, and western entertainment
- Iran Hostage Crisis
 - Iranians stormed the U.S. embassy taking 70 Americans captive
- Government nationalized property including banks, insurance companies, and large farms

Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988)

- Saddam Hussein viewed the Iranian Revolution as an opportunity to invade Iran
- Despite early Iraqi victories, war turned into a war of attrition
- Iraq invades Kuwait in 1990

