Independence and Decolonization

In India and Africa
INDIAN INDEPENDENCE
Group Discussion

• What were some of the major obstacles to Indian independence in the period after World War I?
Indian Independence

• Internal conflict between Hindus (majority) and Muslims (minority)

• India struggles against British rule
  – EX: Amritsar Massacre
Indian Independence

- Mohandas Gandhi – leader of Indian independence movement
  - Civil disobedience and passive resistance to protest British rule (ex. = Salt March)
Partner Discussion

• Why are movements that employ passive resistance or civil disobedience sometimes more successful than armed revolution or rebellion? What movements have been influenced by Gandhi’s actions?
Indian Independence

• Other leaders
  – Jinnah – leader of Muslims (Muslim League)
  – Nehru – leader of Hindus (Indian National Congress)

• WWII ends in 1945, independence movement gains strength

• British agree to grant independence – Aug 15th, 1947 (but partition India)
Group Discussion

Look at the map at right. How would you address the goals, ambitions, and concerns of the people living in the Indian colony in 1947?
Indian Independence

• Partition of India based mainly along religious lines
  – India = mainly Hindu
  – Pakistan = mainly Muslim

• East Pakistan becomes Bangladesh = mainly Muslim

– Ceylon (called Sri Lanka) = mainly Buddhist
Partition of India

The Partition of South Asia:
The Formation of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka

Partition of India Map

Dates of independence

1947

1948

500 Miles

500 Kilometers

Bay of Bengal

Arabian Sea

SOVIET UNION

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN (WEST) 1947

JAMMU AND KASHMIR (disputed)

Cease-fire line 1949

SIKKIM (part of India, 1975)

BHUTAN 1971

NEPAL

PAKISTAN (EAST) 1947

BANGLADESH 1971

BENGAL

BURMA

CEYLON 1948

(became Sri Lanka, 1972)
AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE
African Independence

• UN Charter granted the “right of self-determination” to all people
• SELF-DETERMINATION = the right of a people to decide their own political status or government
• African colonies began to demand their independence after WWII
Group Discussion

• Since Africa is a very diverse continent with many different religions, languages, ethnicities, nationalities, and cultural divisions, what common ground do you think Africans shared? What united the people despite their diversity?
Basis for African Independence

- People of Africa had:
  - Pride in African cultures and heritage (*Negritude Movement*)
  - Resentment against imperial rule of Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Portugal
  - Resentment of the economic exploitation of their lands by these countries
THE MOST POTENT WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF THE OPPRESSOR IS THE MIND OF THE OPPRESSED — STEVE BIKO
Map of African Independence

African National Independence
Featuring the Dates of Independence of Each Nation
African Independence

• Independence movements also influenced by superpowers’ rivalry during the Cold War

Cuban troops supported by the USSR in Angola in support of Angolan independence and establishment of a Marxist government

South African troops, supported by the US, in Angola fighting against Marxist rebels
Partner Discussion

• What do you think would be the reason(s) why some African independence movements were successful without much violence but others were only successful after long and/or bloody conflicts?
Differences in African Independence

• West Africa – had little foreign settlement = peaceful transition to independence  
  – Ex. Ghana

• Algeria/Kenya/South Africa/Angola/Congo – sizeable foreign settlement = violent transition to independence
Algerian Independence

• Algeria – French settlers in Algeria, called *colonos*, did not want independence from France. Algerians did.

• Bloody war resulted in independence in July, 1962.
Algeria had the largest white settler population of any French African colony, with a million people of French descent holding power over eight million Algerian Muslims.

Seven years of guerrilla warfare cost tens of thousands of lives.
Kenyan Independence

• Kenya – British settlers did not want independence, under the leadership of Jomo Kenyatta, they did.

• Armed rebellion by the Mau Mau led to British army intervention.

• Independence came in 1963.
Mau Mau Rebellion

Kenya, during the 1950s, was dominated by the Mau Mau uprising against the British. A central feature of this revolt was a desire on the part of the Kikuyu, along with some Embu and Meru people, for land taken by the Europeans.
Partner Discussion

• In South Africa, the minority white Afrikaner population had lived in the region for a few hundred years. They believed South Africa to be their homeland as well. If they wanted to ensure they would not lose the status they had built up over these years, what would they need to do in their interactions with the majority black South Africans? What would be the advantages of this plan? What would be the disadvantages?
South African Independence

• South Africa – White settlers, British and Afrikaners of Dutch descent won independence from Britain in 1931.

• 1948 – Afrikaners, believers in white supremacy, came to power.
South African Independence

• Afrikaner gov’t established official policy of *apartheid*.
• Apartheid = racial separation between blacks and whites.
• Blacks were treated as second-class citizens without any personal freedoms or civil rights
The Legacy of Apartheid
South African Independence

• African National Congress (a black nationalist group) led opposition to apartheid and the white-led gov’t

• The ANC and other opposition groups along with international pressure finally ended policy of apartheid in the late 1980’s.
Challenges Faced by Latin America, Africa, and Asia in the Post WWII Era
Group Discussion

• What challenges or obstacles do you think are faced by developing countries (formerly called “Third World” countries during the Cold War)? Why are the possible solutions to these challenges and obstacles important to the USA?
Latin America

• Challenges to the spread of Democracy
  • Powerful militaries which suppress opposition
  • Poor economies (little industrialization)
  • Large income gaps between rich and poor

• Responses
  • Land Reform
  • Huge Economic Development Programs
  • Reform the Political Process
Latin America

• Brazil
  – 2002 - Conservative and pro-business gov’t gave way to a more moderate/socialist gov’t

• Mexico
  – 2000 - 50+ years of one party rule of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (or PRI) ends
  – New President Vincente Fox vows to end corruption and advocates free-market economy
India

• 1947 - Largest democracy in the world
• 1948 - Gandhi killed by Hindu nationalist
• Nehru – industrialized India through direct government action
India

• Challenges
  • Internal conflict between Hindus and Muslims
  • 60+ million Muslims remain in India
• Territorial Conflicts
  • Pakistan over provinces of Kashmir and Jammu
  • China over disputed border region
India

• Challenges
  • Rapid population growth
    ▪ Green Revolution – Agricultural innovations
  • Urbanization
  • Growing gap b/w rich and poor
  • Nuclear arms race with Pakistan
Africa – Challenges Faced

• National boundaries based on colonial borders of 19\textsuperscript{th} century
• Ethnic/religious conflicts over power
• Trouble attracting foreign investment
• West is still seen as trying to take/control Africa’s natural resources = “neo-colonialism”
Africa

- South Africa
  - 1990’s - International pressure and internal resistance helps to end the policy of apartheid in South Africa
  - 1992 – Political equality granted to all S. Africans
  - 1994 – Nelson Mandela wins presidency in 1st all-race elections
China

- Pragmatists – Communist officials who wanted to modernize the Chinese economy
- Cultural Revolution – Mao’s attempt to purge the pragmatists
- 1971 - More moderate gov’t under Zhou Enlai takes over – begins “détente” with USA
China

• Economic Reform
  • 1976 – Mao dies. China under Deng Xiaoping – opens economy = allows for limited capitalism
  • Four Modernizations – set of goals to modernize/reform China’s economy
  • Chinese society becomes more open – people allowed to listen to Western music, more tourists, etc.
China

- Dissidents in China
  - Tiananmen Square – 1989
    - Students protest against Chinese gov’t – want more democratic freedoms
    - Deng Xiaoping used Chinese army to end protest – thousands of protesters killed or wounded
    - China cracks down on political dissidents and advocates for democracy
China

- Challenges Faced by China
  - Balance rapid economic growth with
    - Pressure for democratic change
    - Effects of the environment
    - Rising population/urbanization
Closure

• Explain why knowledge of the history of African, Asian, and Latin American nations might help a high school student in the future? HINT: Think about the increasing contacts among people of the world due to technology. Give TWO reasons why historical knowledge of other regions of the world may be helpful to you now or in the future.