Packet Directions for Students

Students should complete the following sections of the APEX World History course.

**8 Unit Overview: Decolonization, Nation Building, and the Cold War**

**WEEK 3 – 8.1 Lesson Overview: Decolonization and New States in Asia and the Middle East**

8.1.5 Study: The Formation of Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict
Identify and describe the major causes and effects of post-World War II independence movements in the Middle East, particularly the establishment of the state of Israel.

8.1.6 Quiz: The Formation of Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

**WEEK 4 – 8.2 Lesson Overview: Decolonization and New States in Africa**

8.2.1 Study: Postwar Independence Movements in Africa
Identify and describe the major causes and effects of post-World War II independence movements in Africa in the mid-20th century.

8.2.2 Quiz: Postwar Independence Movements in Africa
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

**WEEK 3 - Decolonization and New States in Asia and the Middle East**

**Objectives**

- Examine the role of Mohandas Gandhi in the fight for independence in India.
- Identify and describe the major causes and effects of post–World War II independence movements in Asia.
- Read and answer questions about the King-Crane Report and the process of determining what to do with the territories of the former Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I.
- Identify and describe the major causes and effects of the establishment of the State of Israel.
- Explain some of the historical, cultural, religious, and social factors that fuel the Arab-Israeli conflict.
**8.1.5 Study: The Formation of Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict**

Use this study sheet to answer questions about important concepts covered in this activity.

Define the following terms.

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<td>Yasser Arafat</td>
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Write a short answer to each question.

1. What is the relationship between Arab nationalism and the Ottoman Empire?

2. What is Zionism?

3. How did the British disappoint both the Jews and the Arabs and increase tensions between the two groups?

4. Describe the events surrounding Israel's declaration of independence in 1948.

5. How was Golda Meir instrumental in Israeli history?

6. What were the common goals of Palestinian organizations in the 1970s?
7. What steps led to the peace process of the 1990s between Israelis and Palestinians?

8. What events have hurt the peace process in the 21st century?

**THINK FURTHER**

Expand your thinking on questions raised in this activity.

10. How did nationalism contribute to the Arab-Israeli conflict?

**SUM IT UP**

In one or two sentences, write the "big idea" or main point of this study.
The Formation of Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Imagining a Scenario with Historical Significance
Charlotte is forced to go on a long voyage and leaves her family farm behind. No one knows if she'll ever return. After a few years, Shawn moves onto the farm and spends several decades tending to it. In time, Charlotte wishes to return home, but Shawn doesn't want to leave the farm. A judge decides that Charlotte should have her land back and forces Shawn to leave, creating great tension between Charlotte and Shawn. Whom do you side with in this dispute? Who has a right to the land? This scenario only scratches the surface of the complex conflicts at play in the Middle East today. In this activity, you will look closely at the ongoing tensions between Arab and Israeli communities over the formation of the State of Israel.

Claiming Palestine - Understanding the History of a Contested Land
For thousands of years, both Jews and Arabs have laid claim to Palestine and Jerusalem, places considered holy to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Both Judaism and Christianity began in Palestine, and the founder of Islam, the Prophet Muhammad, made an important journey there. The modern nation of Israel is named for an ancient Jewish kingdom that once occupied much of Palestine before the Jews were forced to leave; thousands of years later, Christian and Muslim kingdoms fought over the land during the Crusades. More recently, nationalism created new tensions in the region as members from Jewish and Islamic faiths claimed that Palestine belonged to them.

Note: Throughout this lesson you will see the terms Arab and Muslim. It's important to understand that not all Arabs are Muslim, and not all Muslims are Arabs.

Roots of the Conflict - Jewish and Muslim Nationalism
Nationalism is the belief that a group of people who share a language and culture forms a single, unified nation. This belief, along with the pride and loyalty that stem from it, is part of the reason for the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Jews and Muslims were caught up in the waves of nationalism sweeping through the world. Arabs sought independence from European powers, while Jews pursued Zionism.

The New Middle East - Changes in the Former Ottoman Empire
At the end of World War I, the Ottoman Empire collapsed. Victorious European states — led by Great Britain and France — divided control of much of the former empire, including Palestine. However, the British and French did not keep their promises of independence to either the Muslims or the Jews. Instead, they established mandates — formal orders — meant to create a gradual transition toward independence. Both Muslim and Jewish nationalists felt betrayed by this mandate system.

The Middle East After the Fall of the Ottoman Empire - 5 hot spots of the Middle East during this Period
Turkey: The Ottoman Turks retained possession of land that became the modern state of Turkey.
Syria and Lebanon: The French obtained control of Syria and Lebanon, with a mandate to prepare each country for self-government.
Palestine: The British obtained control of a swath of land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf, including Palestine.
Transjordan: In 1921 and 1922, the British separated Transjordan from Palestine and forbade Jewish settlement in Transjordan. The dividing line was the Jordan River. This angered many Zionists, who thought both sides of the Jordan should be part of a Jewish state.

Saudi Arabia: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was one of the few Arab areas that achieved complete independence after World War I.

British Rule in Palestine - Analyzing the British Position on Creating a Jewish State
During their 30-year rule in Palestine, the British complicated relations between Muslims and Jews by attempting to please both sides, without satisfying either. Resentment grew between the two groups and toward the British government.

In 1922, the British government wrote a report to explain its earlier pledge of support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. In the report, the British said that their support wasn’t meant to force all residents of Palestine to take a Jewish national identity, but only to further develop the Jewish community that was already there. They also said that if a Jewish state were created, it should be internationally recognized and that Jewish immigration to Palestine would need to be increased.

The report promised that immigration would be gradual and would not place a burden on those already in Palestine or displace people from their current jobs. Finally, the report promised Muslim Palestinians self-determination but said it should be granted gradually.

Effects of World War II - Increasing Tensions in Palestine
Britain soon had to turn its attention to World War II, which would only deepen the Zionist resolve to establish a Jewish state. Both before and during the war, many Jews who fled Europe to escape Nazi persecution and later the Holocaust made their way to Palestine. The resulting problems in Palestine led to the formation of the Arab League and eventually required action by the United Nations.

Effects of World War II on Palestine
1933 – 1936: As anti-Semitism in Europe became more violent, hundreds of thousands of European Jews fled Nazi-controlled regions. By 1936, Jews made up about one-third of the population in Palestine.

1936 – 1939: Alarmingly, the rapid increase in Jewish immigration, Palestinian Arabs revolted in 1936. The rebellion continued until 1939, when the British — who were still occupying Palestine — created a new policy strictly limiting Jewish immigration.

1939 – 1945: Because the British needed Arab oil to fight World War II, in 1939 the British government agreed to allow only 75,000 Jews to immigrate to Palestine over the next five years. Millions of Jews were left in Europe to die in the Holocaust.

1945: In March 1945, six Middle Eastern countries — Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq — formed the Arab League, an organization that vowed to prevent a Jewish state from forming in Palestine. Two months later, World War II ended in Europe; Japan surrendered in September, ending the war in the Pacific.

1947: In the years following World War II, tensions between Palestinian Muslims and Jews continued to increase. Weary of the fighting, the British finally agreed to end their control of Palestine. They requested the newly formed United Nations to come up with a plan for governing the region.
Analyzing Differing Opinions on the Partition of Palestine

In November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to divide, or partition, Palestine into two states, one Muslim and one Jewish. The Jewish state would include most of the areas where Jewish settlers had begun farms and communal settlements, called kibbutzim. The Muslim state would include territories in the north, east, and southwest of Palestine. Jerusalem would become an international city, not under the control of either state. Muslims and Jews had different reactions to the partition plan.

Differing Opinions on the Partition of Palestine

**Palestinian Muslim woman:** I do not understand why we need a Jewish state. The Jews have not controlled this land for more than 2,000 years. My father fought in World War I for the British because they promised us a free Muslim state. And now the United Nations wants to take some of our land and give it to people who are not from here!

**Israeli Jewish man:** Finally we will have our own land. My family moved to Israel in the 1930s, fleeing persecution in Germany. We were among the lucky ones. We need a Jewish state so that Jews will never again be victims of anti-Semites like the Nazis. The partition is not large, but it does include the land that we have settled over the past 50 years. We will be safe here.

**European Jewish woman:** I am so pleased that there will finally be a Jewish state! I have tried to emigrate from France to Israel since 1945, but each time I was turned back by the British. Now I will be able to move to Israel, the home of my ancestors.

**Jordanian Muslim man:** I am worried about what will happen to my Muslim brothers and sisters who live in the proposed Jewish state. Will they be allowed to stay? Will they be pushed off their land? Will they be attacked? What will happen to them? That land has always been Muslim land. It should not be taken from us. This is just more of the West's imperialism!

Arab-Israeli War of 1948 - Israel Declares Its Independence

Seeing the partition as another example of European imperialism, most Palestinian Muslims opposed it, and civil war broke out in Palestine as soon as the United Nations announced the plan. Zionists immediately helped more Jews immigrate to Palestine, while the Arab League pledged support to the Palestinian Muslims who opposed the plan. Alarmed, international leaders recommended the partition plan be reworked to satisfy both sides. The Zionists refused and renewed their attacks on Palestinian Muslims, winning several key victories. On May 14, 1948, the last British commissioner left Palestine. On the same day, the Zionist leaders declared the independence of the new State of Israel. Immediately, members of the Arab League sent their armies to invade Israel. Over the next six months, the Israeli and Arab armies fought each other. With each victory, Israel claimed more land that the UN had set aside for Arab Muslims. Finally, in 1949, the Israelis and Palestinians signed a cease-fire agreement that established new, larger borders for Israel, including part of Jerusalem. However, none of the members of the Arab League recognized Israel's right to exist.

Palestinian Refugees - A New Source of Conflict in the Region

During the Arab-Israeli War of 1948, hundreds of thousands of Arabs left their homes in what was to become the State of Israel. Some were forced out by Jewish soldiers. Others fled, not wanting to live under Jewish control.

Most of the Muslim refugees ended up in refugee camps in southern Lebanon, the Golan Heights, Syria, and the West Bank. After the war, the Israeli government refused to let the refugees return. The Muslim countries where the refugees had fled did not help them either — many refugees remained in camps for decades, and their situation became known as the "Palestinian problem." Eventually, some of the camps developed into communities of their own, but Muslim resentment over the loss of their homes would fuel future conflicts.
The Suez Crisis - Deepening Arab-Israeli Conflicts
Israel's conflicts weren't just with Muslim Palestinians. The Arab League continued to oppose Israel's existence, and in early 1956, the president of Egypt, Gamal Abdel Nasser, ordered the Egyptian navy to blockade Israel from the Straits of Tiran. This kept Israeli ships from passing through the Suez Canal, which connected the Mediterranean and Red seas. The blockade effectively cut off Israel from the Indian Ocean and countries to the east.
In July 1956, Nasser placed the canal completely under Egyptian control. In response, France and Britain, which had been operating the canal, planned a joint military attack along with Israel. In October, Israeli troops invaded Egypt from the east, while the French and British troops invaded from the north.
The United Nations eventually convinced France and Great Britain to withdraw from the canal zone and Israel to retreat back to its borders. In return, Egypt reopened the Straits of Tiran to Israel. When the crisis ended, Nasser became a hero and symbol of Arab nationalism, while Britain and France lost much of their influence in the Middle East.

Arab-Israeli Wars - Israelis and Palestinians Attack Each Other
Tensions between Jews and Muslims in Palestine remained high in the mid-20th century. The result was a continuing series of conflicts known as the Arab-Israeli wars, which included the two conflicts you've already learned about: the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 and the 1956 Suez Crisis. The next conflict was the Six-Day War, also known as the June War or the Third Arab-Israeli War. That was followed by the Yom Kippur War, also known as the October War, the Ramadan War, or the Fourth Arab-Israeli War.

The Yom Kippur War or the Ramadan War?
By now you should have noticed that many of the Arab-Israeli conflicts are known by more than one name. The Six-Day War is also known as the June War — or the Third Arab-Israeli War. The Yom Kippur War is also known as the Ramadan War or the Fourth Arab-Israeli War.
Why would one conflict have more than one name? It's partly because different people — and nations — have different points of view. The Yom Kippur or Ramadan War began on October 6, which was the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur. Therefore, from an Israeli point of view, it made sense to name the war after Yom Kippur. From the Arab point of view, however, it made more sense to call it the Ramadan War, since the war began in the holy month of Ramadan.

Golda Meir - Leading Israel Through Troubled Times
One of the key figures during the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflicts was Golda Meir. Meir had been a Zionist since the 1910s, and in 1921 she immigrated to Palestine, where she lived on a kibbutz, a collective farm community or settlement in Israel. In 1928, she became secretary of the Woman's Labour Council. Later, she rose through the ranks of Israeli politics and negotiated with the British to promote the goals of Jewish immigration. Meir was one of the signers of the Israeli declaration of independence.
From 1949 to 1974, Meir served in the Israeli parliament. As minister of labor from 1949 to 1956, she promoted Jewish immigration to Israel and formed alliances with newly independent African nations. Meir became prime minister in 1969 and worked hard to create a peace settlement with Palestine while also building a strong military. But she was widely criticized because of the attacks of the Yom Kippur War that caught Israel by surprise, and afterward she resigned. Nonetheless, she is still considered one of the central figures in the movement for Israeli independence.
Camp David Accords - Egypt and Israel Attempt to Make Peace
After the Yom Kippur War in 1973, both Israel and Egypt wanted peace. The war had been costly to both sides, and neither could claim victory. American president Jimmy Carter met separately with Israeli and Arab leaders to try to resolve issues fueling the conflict, including gaining Arab recognition of Israel, having Israel withdraw from occupied Palestinian territories, and finding a home for Palestinian refugees. Finally, in 1978, Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian president Anwar el-Sādāt agreed to meet with Carter at Camp David, the U.S. presidential retreat outside Washington, D.C. After nearly two weeks of intense discussion, they agreed to the Camp David Accords. The following year, Israel and Egypt signed a treaty officially ending the state of war between the two countries. Israel agreed to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula, and Egypt agreed to allow Israeli ships to pass through the Suez Canal. Both agreed to establish diplomatic relations with each other. Although many people disliked the treaty, it set the stage for future treaties between Israel and other Arab nations.

Cycles of Peace and Violence - The Ups and Downs of Establishing an Independent Palestine
While Arab nations such as Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt were waging war and making peace with Israel, Palestinian nationalist movements were forming to promote an independent nation of Palestine. These movements were officially independent of Arab states but often had their support. The new organizations and their leaders that grew out of these movements included the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Hamas, and Yasser Arafat.

Milestone 1: 1964: Formation of the Palestine Liberation Organization - The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) formed as an umbrella organization for many of the independent Palestinian groups fighting Israel. Yasser Arafat was named the chairman of the group in 1969. He increasingly pushed the PLO toward a peace settlement with Israel, but died without achieving one. Through the 1980s, the PLO primarily waged guerrilla warfare against Israel. During the 1990s, however, it made efforts to negotiate peace.

Milestone 2: 1972: Murder in Munich - Fatah, an Arab Palestinian political party that formed in the late 1950s, gave rise to several splinter groups, including the terrorist organization Black September. In 1972, members of Black September kidnapped and murdered 11 Israeli athletes at the Summer Olympic Games in Munich, West Germany. Black September demanded that Israel release 234 prisoners being held in Israeli jails. Israel refused to negotiate.

Milestone 3: 1987 – 1992: First Intifada - Frustrated by increasing Israeli settlement in Palestinian territory and attacks by Israeli settlers, Palestinians demonstrated, rioted, and staged strikes and boycotts. The uprising — which lasted through the early 1990s — became known as the intifada, an Arabic word that means "shaking off."

Milestone 4: 1993: Oslo Accords - In September 1993, representatives of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed the Oslo Accords. Both sides agreed to recognize each other. In exchange for peace, Israel agreed to gradually give power in occupied territories to a Palestinian authority. After a transition period of five years, both sides planned to sign a final peace treaty.
Milestone 5: 1995: Opposition and Assassination - The promise of the Oslo Accords did not last. The peace plan was opposed by many Palestinian groups, including Hamas — a militant organization founded in 1987 that has steadily come to rival the PLO — and a follow-up plan in 1995 barely passed the Israeli parliament. Later that fall, Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated.

Milestone 6: 2000 – 2001: Second Intifada - In 2000, former Israeli general Ariel Sharon — a hero of the Six-Day War and an outspoken opponent of Palestinian independence — visited the Temple Mount, a site holy to both Jews and Muslims. Outraged by Sharon’s presence, Palestinians erupted in the violence of a second intifada. Israelis responded by reoccupying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and restricting the movements of Palestinians. Many on both sides were killed.

Milestone 7: 2003 – 2008: Battles for Gaza - In 2003, Ariel Sharon — who had become Israel's prime minister — announced a plan to withdraw Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip (pictured here). This process was completed in 2005; Israel also returned parts of the West Bank to Palestinian control, forcing Israeli settlers to leave those areas.

Reviewing the Arab-Israeli Conflicts
Throughout the 20th century, Jewish and Arab nationalist movements led to conflict in Palestine over who had the right to the land. As more Jews immigrated to Palestine, often fleeing anti-Semitism in Europe and elsewhere, tensions in the region increased. Once the nation of Israel was founded in 1948, Palestinian Arabs and Arab nations such as Syria and Egypt sought to reclaim the land that had become Israel. This led to several wars and many conflicts, some of which continue today.
Ongoing attacks by both sides, as well as increased Israeli settlement, block progress toward peace, despite the efforts of leaders on both sides who have tried to negotiate a resolution to the conflicts in the region.
Quiz: The Formation of Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Question 1 of 10
Which statement best describes why the city of Jerusalem was such a contested territory in the 20th century?

A. Both Jews and Muslims considered Jerusalem to be a holy city.

B. Muslim nationalists hoped to force Jews to live in Jerusalem.

C. The Ottoman Empire refused to surrender Jerusalem to Great Britain.

D. Jerusalem was an important military base in the Six-Day War.

Question 2 of 10
Which historical figure played a major role in the Israeli independence movement and later went on to promote Jewish immigration to Israel as prime minister?

A. Gamal Abdel Nasser

B. Golda Meir

C. Anwar el-Sādāt

D. Yasser Arafat

Question 3 of 10
How did nationalism contribute to the rise of independence movements in the Middle East?

A. It convinced Arab Muslims and Jews they had rights to an independent state in Palestine.

B. It led the British government to pass anti-Semitic policies banning Jews from Palestine.

C. It led most Arab Muslims to support the Ottoman Empire and oppose British colonialism.

D. It convinced Middle Eastern Jews that they needed to form a Jewish state in Europe.
Question 4 of 10
Which statement explains why British and Palestinian Arab tensions increased after World War I?

A. The British claimed that Palestinian Arabs were similar enough to Jews that both groups formed only one nation.

B. The British refused to allow Palestinian Arabs to form an independent state unless over half their population was Jewish.

C. The British supported a Jewish homeland in Palestine despite an earlier promise to grant Arabs in the colony independence.

D. The British forced Palestinian Arabs to relocate to refugee camps to make room for Jews who were fleeing persecution.

Question 5 of 10
How did the United Nations (U.N.) propose to govern Palestine after the British decided to end their mandate in the region?

A. The U.N. decided to give Palestine to the Arabs but the city of Jerusalem to the Jews.

B. The U.N. gave Jewish settlers territories in the north, east, and southwest of Palestine.

C. The U.N. declared that the region of Palestine would remain under international control.

D. The U.N. voted to divide Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish.

Question 6 of 10
Which statement describes an effect of the Arab-Israeli War of 1948?

A. Palestine took control of the Suez Canal from Great Britain and France.

B. Egypt invaded Israel and reclaimed land once belonging to Palestine.

C. Many Palestinians became refugees living in camps in Syria and Lebanon.

D. The Arab League recognized Israel as a sovereign nation.
Question 7 of 10
Why did President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt blockade Israeli ships in the Straits of Tiran and prevent them from passing through the Suez Canal in 1952?

A. Egypt wanted to protect Israel from an ambush by Palestinians at the canal.
B. Egypt thought Israeli ships were going to attack Egyptian cities.
C. Egypt hoped to prevent Israel from taking over operation of the canal.
D. Egypt was a member of the Arab League and opposed the existence of Israel.

Question 8 of 10
What was one significant and immediate cause of the Six-Day War, also known as the June War?

A. Israel launched a preemptive attack on the Syrian capital of Damascus.
B. Arab nationalist groups from Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan began to attack Israel.
C. Egypt and Syria launched surprise attacks on the holy day of Yom Kippur.
D. Israel invaded and captured most Egyptian territory outside of Africa.

Question 9 of 10
How were Jewish nationalists similar to Arab nationalists during the 20th century?

A. Both groups gained influence when their members were persecuted by imperial powers.
B. Both groups were formed to unify members living in different countries all across the globe.
C. Both groups strongly supported the mandate system in Palestine following World War I.
D. Both groups demanded that Palestine be split into two separate independent states.
Question 10 of 10
Which statement accurately describes U.S. foreign policy intentions during the signing of both the Oslo Accords and the Camp David Accords?

A. The United States sided with Arab nations against Israel.

B. The United States tried to broker peace between Israeli and Arab leaders.

C. The United States refused to become involved in the peace process.

D. The United States sided with Israel against Arab nations.
WEEK 4 – Post-War Independence Movements in Africa

Decolonization and New States in Africa - The Path to Freedom

A man waves the South African flag.

For much of the African continent — along with parts of Asia and the Middle East — the 20th century was an age of independence. From the 1950s through the 1990s, African countries succeeded in breaking free from their colonial rulers and establishing their own governments.

Freedom rarely came easily, of course. Africans, including powerful leaders and everyday citizens, used both nonviolent and violent resistance to gain independence and — in South Africa — to end a discriminatory system that gave full rights only to white people.

In this lesson, you will look in depth at several of these struggles and how Africa still works to recover from the scars of colonialism.

Objectives

• Examine the causes, characteristics, and effects of post–World War II independence movements in Ghana, Algeria, and Kenya.
• Analyze the development of apartheid, the growth of antiapartheid movements, and the aftermath of apartheid in South Africa.
• Describe the role of Nelson Mandela in fighting apartheid and establishing the post-apartheid government of South Africa.
• Analyze the legacy of colonialism in developing countries today.
8.2.1 Study: Postwar Independence Movements in Africa

Use this study sheet to answer questions about important concepts covered in this activity.

**DEFINE TERMS**

Define the following terms.

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Write a short answer to each question.
1. How were African colonies affected by World War I, both during the war and after?

2. What were the two main economic goals of colonial powers from the late 19th century on? What was their economic policy toward the African people?

3. What impact did political parties in Africa have on the African desire for independence?
4. Why did Kwame Nkrumah advocate Pan-Africanism? What governmental change did he hope would come from it?

5. What did Kwame Nkrumah and Jomo Kenyatta have in common?

6. What happened in Ghana, Algeria, and Kenya since the countries won their independence?
Expand your thinking on questions raised in this activity.

7. Compare the independence movements in Africa to the independence movement in India. How were they similar and different?

8. Do you think former colonies in Africa would be better off today if they had been able to unite under a single government? Why or why not?

In one or two sentences, write the "big idea" or main point of this study.
**Postwar Independence Movements in Africa - The Fight Against African Colonialism**

The 20th century was a time of upheaval for Africa. After the destruction of World War I, many European countries looked to their African colonies for the resources to rebuild. The practices of colonialism led to new levels of economic, political, and human repression. By the time World War II drew to a close, Africans were determined to avoid the same treatment they’d experienced after World War I.

By the end of the 1970s, nearly every country on the African continent was independent. But a free Africa wasn’t the result of European kindness or their lack of interest in African resources. Rather, it was achieved through the efforts of African leaders and groups driven by nationalism and determined to gain freedom for their people.

**A Colonized Continent - Africa at the End of the 19th Century**

During the late 1800s, European powers raced against one another in the scramble for Africa. France took Algeria. The Belgians took over nearly all of the Congo River Basin. The British acquired Egypt and expanded their small trading posts into full-scale colonies in East and West Africa. After the Boer Wars, in which the British fought Dutch settlers for control of gold-rich territory in the south, the British created the self-governing British territory of South Africa.

Most of the economies in these colonies were based on exploiting Africa's natural resources and then selling manufactured goods back to the colonies at high prices. As the 19th century came to a close, nearly all of Africa was under European control.

![Map of Africa in 1914](image)

*By the time the first shots of World War I were fired in 1914, Africa had already been divided among Europe's powers.*

**Africa at War - An Overview of African Participation in World War I**

With Europe so heavily invested in colonialism in Africa, the fighting of World War I quickly spread to that continent as well. Britain and France seized German colonies in Africa, including Togoland, Cameroon, German South-West Africa, and German East Africa.
While the British and the French benefited from these new conquests, the African people there suffered. Soldiers on both sides burned villages and crops in an attempt to cut off supplies for the enemy. European armies recruited (often by force) an estimated 1 million African men to serve as porters, carrying luggage and supplies, while at least 500,000 Africans served as soldiers. The service of these men deprived villages of labor, and families of husbands and fathers.

**The Transformation of African Economies - Taxation and the Drive for Exports**

From the late 19th century on, colonizing powers pursued two main objectives in Africa, both aimed at profiting from the colonies as much as possible. The first goal was to make indigenous Africans pay for the colonial governments that controlled them. To accomplish this, many colonies heavily taxed the native people. Colonial governments also required that indigenous people pay those taxes in cash, which helped European powers meet their second objective: establishing economies based on the production of raw materials for export. Most Africans could pay the taxes only by working for settler farms or other colonial industries. Colonial governments passed laws to restrict what the African people could produce for themselves. They were not allowed to make machetes and axes, which had to be imported from Europe, and imported sugar and rice were priced so that they cost less to import than they did to grow. The result was a gradual dependence on European imports, while Africa's own natural resources were sent to Europe. Indigenous Africans were also prevented from achieving the success of European colonists. In many colonies, laws forbade Africans from growing certain crops, like highly profitable Arabica coffee. And only Europeans could lease the right to mine valuable minerals, while Africans were forced into positions as poorly paid laborers in the mines.

**Stirring Resentment - The Beginning of Organized Resistance in Colonial Africa**

In the years after World War I — as European countries turned to their colonies to aid in wartime recovery — African protests against colonial policies grew. In southern Africa, for example, black and mixed-race workers formed the first nonwhite labor unions in the region to fight for higher pay. The educated elite in some areas began to form nationalist organizations focused on independence for their countries. Some religious leaders also fed resistance against colonialism, arguing that the colonial administrations enforced brutality and social inequality.

**Working for Freedom - Africans Demand Independence**

In 1941, the United States, Great Britain, and the other Allies signed the Atlantic Charter, in which they agreed that every nation had the right to self-determination. Many Africans interpreted this declaration as a statement that colonized lands should be free. When Britain withdrew from India in 1947, a number of African leaders believed that the colonial powers would soon leave their continent as well. During the 1940s and 1950s, nearly every African colony formed political parties to work for independence and unite oppressed Africans. Parties had formed in Africa before, but they had consisted mostly of the educated elite. The new parties that arose knew that mass support was necessary to gain independence, and they worked to awaken the demand for freedom.

**Fighting Colonialism in the Gold Coast - The Leadership of Kwame Nkrumah**
Kwame Nkrumah, one of the key figures in the fight for African independence, led the first successful independence movement in Africa south of the Sahara desert. Born in 1909 in the British colony of the Gold Coast (modern-day Ghana), he worked as a teacher before moving to the United States to attend college.

Like India's Mohandas Gandhi, who lived among Indians in colonial South Africa, Nkrumah lived among people of his own race in the United States. There he was exposed to the work of Karl Marx and Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican activist who promoted the idea of Pan-Africanism. Nkrumah's experiences with people of African descent in the United States, as well as his understanding of Garvey's theories, led him to believe that no Africans could be free until all were free. His time in the United States also exposed him to life in a liberal democracy. He returned to the Gold Coast in 1947 hoping to bring self-government to his country.

Ghana: From Nationalism to Nation - The Move to Independence in Ghana
In order to help the Gold Coast achieve independence, Kwame Nkrumah founded the Convention People's Party (CPP) in 1949. The party was popular with farmers, workers, and young people, who viewed Nkrumah as a liberator. The CPP began a campaign of "positive action" that — as in India — involved strikes and civil disobedience. Although Nkrumah encouraged peaceful protest, some violence did occur. Colonial authorities who blamed Nkrumah (or simply wanted to reduce his power) imprisoned him in 1950. However, British authorities realized that the movement toward self-government could not be stopped. In 1951, a new constitution was drafted giving the colony more independence, and an election for a legislative assembly was held. Although he was in prison, Nkrumah was elected to the new assembly, and the CPP won a majority of the seats. The British retained control of the country, however, and Nkrumah and others continued to demand complete self-government. Britain finally conceded in 1956, and the following year, Ghana became independent. Nkrumah was elected prime minister. He established a one-party system and was declared president for life. In 1966, he was overthrown by a military coup.

The History of French Algeria - French Colonialism in Northern Africa
The territory that makes up the modern-day country of Algeria became a French colony during the 1830s and 1840s. While the British tended to use indirect control in their colonies, the French first ruled Algeria militarily and later imposed direct control from France. All the while, French settlers moved into the country, pushing the indigenous population aside. The settlers took most of the fertile land from the Algerian people and established French-owned mines and factories. The Algerian people were mostly Muslim, and many resisted being colonized. This led to a great deal of conflict between the French and the Algerians. Many Algerians died fighting the French, while many others suffered from disease and starvation brought about by French colonization. By the mid-1870s, up to one-third of Algeria's indigenous population had died.

Algerian Independence - Algeria, France, and the War of Independence
Algerian resistance to French rule grew with the rise of nationalism. Algerian nationalists fell into three main groups: assimilationists who worked for the French government and advocated gradual change; religious reformers who believed in a national Algerian identity based on Islam; and more radical nationalists who demanded immediate independence.
During the 1950s, as Ghana was making a mostly peaceful transition to independence, the struggle in Algeria grew increasingly violent. Despite the passage of some reforms and limited Algerian representation in the French-controlled government, the violence spread. Algerian nationalists also watched the situation in Indochina, where Vietnamese fighters led by Ho Chi Minh were winning independence from the French. Just months after the French defeat there in 1954, Algerian militants from the socialist National Liberation Front (FLN) party launched their fight for independence. Having lost Indochina, however, French leaders were determined to fight back. The result was the Algerian War of Independence: eight years of violent struggle that finally resulted in the country’s freedom in 1962.

A Unique Divide - The Aftermath of the Algerian War
Algeria is located on the north coast of Africa, less than 500 miles from France. Partly because of this closeness, the conflict that erupted in Algeria was rooted in a deep racial and cultural divide. Unlike most other African colonies, Algeria had a large Christian European population. At the start of the Algerian War of Independence, Algeria was home to 1.5 million Europeans and 9 million indigenous Algerians, mostly Muslim. Political power and wealth, however, were primarily in the hands of the European Algerians. The European population understood that in a democratic Algeria they would no longer be in charge. After Algeria won its freedom, huge numbers of Europeans returned to France. Already damaged by the fighting, the departure of so many Europeans further hurt the country as production on farms and in factories fell. Unemployment rose as large tracts of land were abandoned.

Resistance in British Kenya - Jomo Kenyatta and the Kikuyus
The fight for independence in the colony of Kenya (formerly British East Africa) was similar in some ways to the movements in both Ghana and Algeria. As in Ghana, the fight was led by a powerful speaker and activist who had been educated abroad. As in Algeria, however, independence was achieved only after a violent rebellion. The resistance to British rule in Kenya came primarily from the Kikuyu people. In the late 1940s, Kikuyu activist Jomo Kenyatta, who returned from years of study in Great Britain and the Soviet Union, formed a new political party to work on behalf of his people. However, the party was unable to win significant reforms, and many Kikuyus — who had protested for decades as their farmland was seized and given to British settlers — were unwilling to wait any longer.
In 1952, a full-scale rebellion broke out that came to be known as the Mau Mau Uprising. Kikuyu fighters attacked British settlers, British troops, and Kenyans who supported the colonial government. The British fought back — with military force and by arresting Kenyatta and other activists. While Kenyatta appeared to have little connection to the Mau Mau rebels, he was imprisoned until after the British defeated the rebels in 1956.

Kenya Wins Its Independence - The Aftermath of Rebellion
Did the Mau Mau Uprising lead directly to independence in Kenya? It’s hard to say for sure. African populations throughout the continent had become increasingly resistant to colonial rule, and more European powers were beginning to realize they could not control colonies against the will of the people.
By 1960, Kenyan activists had organized a new political party — the Kenya African National Union (KANU) — and elected Jomo Kenyatta to lead it. British authorities agreed to release Kenyatta and proposed that he draft
a new constitution for the country. In 1963, Kenya became independent, with Kenyatta chosen as its first prime minister and later as its president. Over time, Kenyatta increased his power, banning opposing political parties and using the country’s security force to suppress rivals. He also overlooked corruption among public officials, who were allowed to grow rich from their positions. But in his 15 years as president, Kenyatta helped make Kenya’s economy one of the strongest of the newly freed countries. He also established a stable government — when Kenyatta died in 1978, the vice president peacefully assumed rule.

Comparing Independence Efforts - Fights for Freedom in Kenya, Ghana, and Algeria

The Decline of Colonialism - The United States of Africa?
As the examples of Ghana, Algeria, and Kenya demonstrate, Africa was decolonizing quickly during the 1950s and 1960s. But while leaders like Kwame Nkrumah hoped that all of Africa might unite under one government, this dream would never be realized. The same increase in nationalism that helped countries achieve independence also led to tribalism - feelings of identity and loyalty to a particular ethnic group. With so many ethnic groups on the African continent, it remained splintered into many small states. Nonetheless, by 1970, almost all of those states were free countries that governed themselves.

The Legacy of Colonization - Postcolonial Africa: Ghana, Algeria, and Kenya
While Ghana, Algeria, Kenya, and many other African countries succeeded in winning — and maintaining — their independence, they found that the effects of years of colonialism were hard to escape. In Ghana, the country's one-party system lacked the stability that comes with a balance of power between political parties. The country has also struggled with foreign debt, military takeovers, and a declining standard of living. In 2001, however, power was peacefully transferred between democratically elected leaders for the first time — an important step toward a stable government. Despite vast oil reserves, Algeria has fought to maintain stability since achieving independence. A civil war beginning in 1992 killed 100,000 people. While the war has since ended, militants are still active in the country.
Meanwhile, Kenya continues to suffer from corruption that has affected its government since the time of Jomo Kenyatta. However, the country's economy continues to grow, and Kenya's relative stability means it has been able to take in refugees from nearby Somalia and South Sudan.
Quiz: Postwar Independence Movements in Africa

Question 1 of 10
In what way did Africans protest colonial rule in the years after World War I?

A. By working to get European countries to sign the Atlantic Charter
B. By establishing political parties that sought the support of the people
C. By supporting the theories of Marcus Garvey, who promoted Pan-Africanism
D. By forming labor unions and nationalist organizations

Question 2 of 10
Which statement describes one way that World War I affected Africa?

A. Many Africans were able to find high-wage factory jobs supplying European countries' demand for military materials.
B. European armies destroyed African villages and crops to prevent their enemies from accessing supplies.
C. Several African countries were able to convince European powers to offer them independence in exchange for military support.
D. European leaders brought millions of African soldiers to Europe, where they replaced most of the European soldiers in active combat.

Question 3 of 10
Which statement about Kwame Nkrumah and Jomo Kenyatta is not true?

A. Both were imprisoned by the colonial rulers of their countries.
B. Both attended school in foreign countries.
C. Both became the first leaders of their countries after independence.
D. Both were eventually overthrown by a military coup.
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Question 4 of 10
How did Kwame Nkrumah's early policies not match the policies he put in place as prime minister of Ghana?

A. Nkrumah argued that the strongest future for Africa was to unite, but as prime minister he promoted divisions between most African countries.

B. Nkrumah protested the use of violence, but in 1966 he led a military coup to overthrow the elected president of Ghana.

C. Nkrumah called for political freedom in Ghana, but as prime minister he created a one-party system with himself as a permanent leader.

D. Nkrumah opposed colonial rule, but as prime minister he agreed to give some of the country back to Great Britain.

Question 5 of 10
In what ways were the independence movements in Algeria and Kenya similar?

A. Both focused on petitioning the British government for freedom.

B. Both were primarily organized by the Muslim population.

C. Both were led by well-known activists who became president after independence.

D. Both succeeded in winning independence only after violence.

Question 6 of 10
What dream for Africa did Kwame Nkrumah express?

A. The rise of African military power

B. The unification of the African continent

C. The overthrow of rule by France

D. The end of one-party rule in Africa
In my country, the British have been seizing the best farmland for many years. Just recently, my people have been fighting back by attacking the settlers and the troops Britain sends to defend them — as well as those Africans in our country who foolishly support British rule. But the British are angry, and they have imprisoned many of our political activists in return.

Where does the speaker most likely live?

A. Post–World War II Algeria
B. Post–World War II Kenya
C. Post–World War II Ghana
D. Post–World War II Nigeria

How did European countries attempt to profit from their African colonies after World War I?

A. They heavily taxed indigenous Africans and required them to pay in cash.
B. They sold their African colonies to wealthier Asian and American states.
C. They enslaved African laborers to work on European construction projects.
D. They encouraged African farmers to grow valuable crops like coffee.
Question 9 of 10
Which statement best describes Ghana in the years since its independence?

A. Its primarily Muslim population has worked to ensure that the government operates on Islamic principles.

B. A civil war in the 1990s killed 100,000 people there, and violence continues to be a problem.

C. Thanks to its stable government, it has been able to accept many refugees from Somalia and South Sudan.

D. Its one-party government has created instability, but the peaceful transfer of power between leaders in 2001 was a positive sign.

Question 10 of 10
Which statement describes the political state of Africa after most countries gained their independence?

A. The continent was divided into many small states based on regional differences.

B. The continent was split between Christian countries in northern Africa and Muslim states in central and southern Africa.

C. The continent was united under the philosophy of Pan-Africanism.

D. The continent was joined into an economic, but not political, union.