

Chapter 23

DECOLONIZATION AND THE BREAKUP OF THE EUROPEAN EMPIRES

23.109 THE EMERGENCE OF INDEPENDENT NATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Study Questions

1. How did the Second World War contribute to the undermining of the European colonial empires? What role did the colonial nationalist movements play? How did the European countries react?
2. Describe the background to the struggle for independence in India and its outcome. How was the religious issue dealt with? What problems did the partition create? What does the illustration on p. 930 tell us about the human consequences of the partition?
3. What did Nehru in India accomplish in the early years of independence? What problems persisted?
4. What are the reasons that continue to reinforce the tension between Pakistan and India?
5. Describe how the nation of East Pakistan came into existence. Why did India go to war with Pakistan in 1971?
6. Why was Burma's path after independence unique? How did ethnicity play into the country's postwar experiences?
7. Discuss Malaysia's and Singapore's wars for independence from the British colonial rule.
8. Describe Indonesia's experience in the struggle for independence.
9. What justification did France advance for its war in Indochina? What relationship was there in Asia between nationalism and communism? Why?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. The Second World War reinforced nationalist agitation for independence and freedom.
2. The colonial powers sometimes bowed to agitation for independence, but in other cases, only withdrew after protracted wars.
3. The end in 1947 of British rule in India was epoch-making but unfortunately fueled an explosion of ethnic and religious conflict on the Indian subcontinent.
4. To end the impasse the British decided on partition.
5. Despite the machinery of parliamentary democracy, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan soon succumbed to military rule.
6. In addition to economic chaos, Burma faced armed rebellion from insurgent separatist minorities, many of them reinforced after 1949 by the new Communist regime in China.
7. Communism in Asia was often linked to nationalism, anticolonialism, anti-Westernism, and genuine popular discontent.
8. In many parts of postcolonial Asia there was often no absolute repression but no genuine democracy either.
9. The French colonial empire also fell apart, not, however, without a long struggle.
10. The American government saw the war in Vietnam as part of a global Communist challenge that had to be contained.

Identifications

Third World	Muhammad Ali Jinnah	Quit India campaign
Bangladesh	Congress party	Muslim League
Partition	Jawaharlal Nehru	Kashmir
Bandung meeting	Sukarno	Aung Sang
Suharto	General Ne Win	Viet Minh
Commonwealth of Nations	Lee Kuan Yew	Dien Bien Phu

Map Exercise

1. Using the map, The Indian Subcontinent, 2000, on p. 931 in your text, can you locate each

of the states in Asia that gained independence in the postwar years? Where, and why, did conflict emerge in the postwar period?

23.110 THE AFRICAN REVOLUTION

Study Questions

1. On what grounds did the French resist the Algerian struggle for independence? Discuss the repercussions in France of the French-Algerian War. What has been the history of Algeria since independence?
2. How did the French colonial empire in sub-Saharan Africa end?
3. How did the British respond to nationalist pressures (a) in West Africa, (b) in East Africa?
4. What happened to Uganda under Idi Amin's rule?
5. What events accompanied independence in the Belgian Congo?
6. How did Portugal react to the pressures from its colonies for independence? With what consequences for Portugal itself?
7. What role did Africa play in the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the U.S.S.R.? What were the consequences?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. The age of European imperialism also left the African states economically underdeveloped, dependent on world markets, and with little experience in self-governing institutions.
2. During the Second World War the Allied leaders had made various commitments to self-determination.
3. The early postcolonial history of Ghana showed an antidemocratic political evolution that would reappear often in Africa (and in Asia).
4. France remained a strong presence among the African francophone nations.

Identifications

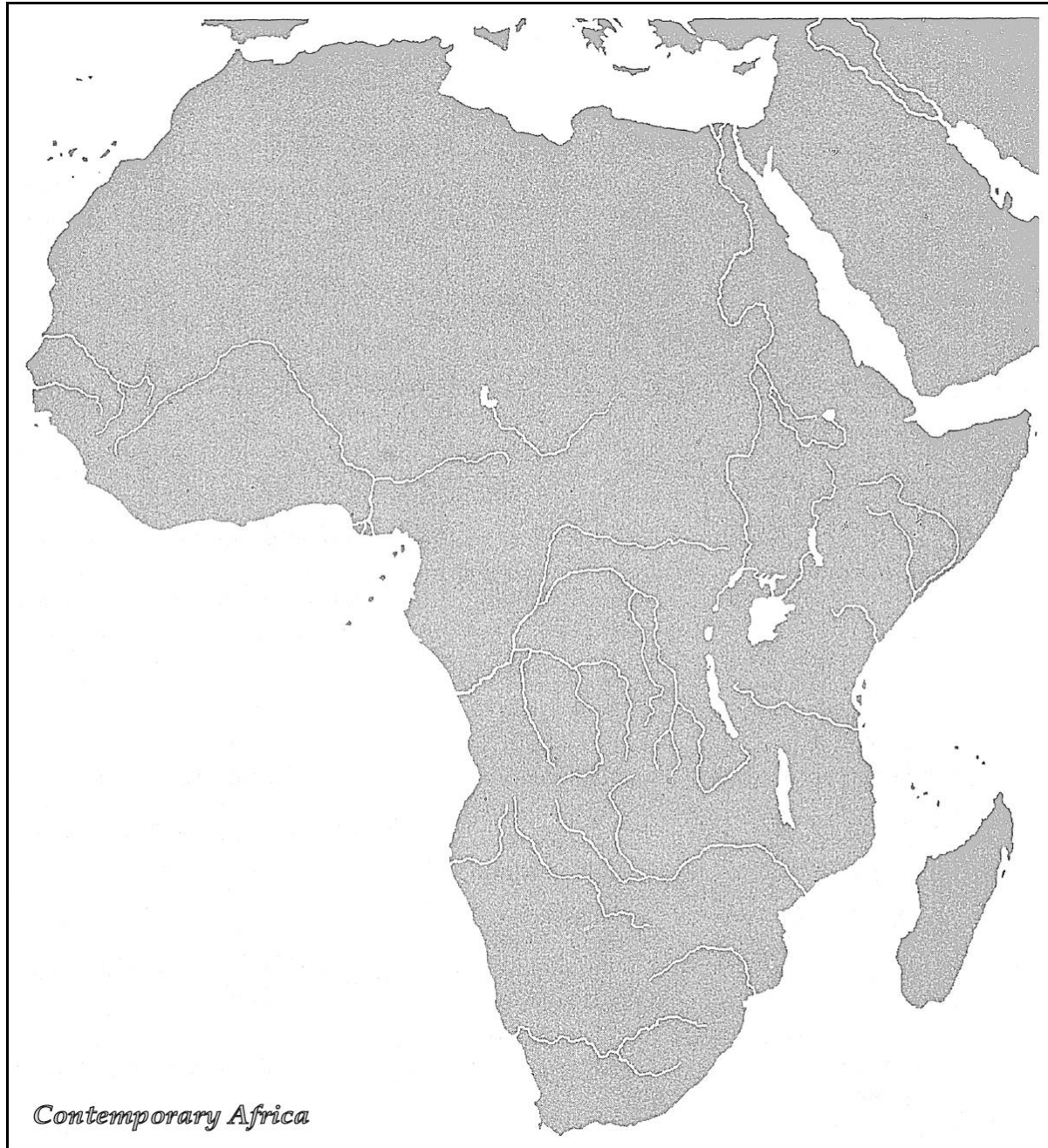
Habib Bourguiba
Apartheid
Jomo Kenyatta

Mobutu
African socialism
Patrice Lumumba

Kwame Nkrumah
Idi Amin

Map Exercises

1. Using the outline map, sketch the approximate boundaries of the larger African states. How had Africa been transformed by independence? Point out some of the major changes on the map. *Source: A History of the Modern World*, p. 938.



23.111. EUROPE AND THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

Study Questions

1. Why has modernization in the Islamic world proved problematic?
2. What are the principal non-Arab Muslim states and the principal Arab states? How did the Arab states acquire independence? How influential has pan-Arabism been in the post-1945

world?

3. How did (a) Zionism and (b) events of the Second World War lead to the creation of the state of Israel? What kind of government, economy, and society emerged in Israel in its years of independence?
4. Summarize the causes and outcome of the Arab-Israeli wars in the years 1948–1982. Why were Arab-Israeli differences difficult to resolve? Of what significance was the agreement signed in 1993? What events have followed?
5. Describe (a) the origins and nature of the revolution of 1979 in Iran, (b) United States relationships with Iran before and after the revolution.
6. Describe how the Iranian revolution represented another popular campaign for the expulsion of Western political and economic interests from a society that was long dominated by outside powers.

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Much of the Islamic world was determined to share in the economic and material advances of modern Europe, but many Muslims also wanted to develop or reform their societies without assimilating European or American cultural patterns.
2. Pan-Arabism failed to rally much support.
3. The Arab states viewed Israel as a Western-backed intrusion into their land, and the result was a series of continuing tensions and conflicts that frequently brought wider international forces into play.
4. A religious movement that may have attracted much less support in a different context or time therefore generated strong nationalist passions among the huge crowds, political activists, and intellectual elites who saw Islamic clerics as an expression of Iranian national sovereignty and as the leaders of a mass movement for true national independence.

Identifications

Ayatollah Khomeini
Shiite

Chador
Sunni

Mossadegh
Persian Gulf

Muhammad Reza

GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 23

1. How would you assess the legacy of Western imperialism? What positive and negative aspects need to be stressed?
2. What accounted for the spectacular end of the European colonial empires after the Second World War? In what ways did the European nations react to the agitation for independence?
3. What may be said about the experiences of the newly independent nations in Asia in the decades after independence (a) from a political viewpoint, (b) from a social and economic viewpoint?
4. What may be said about the political, economic, and social experiences of the newly independent nations in Africa in the decades after independence?
5. In what sense did the Middle East become one of the world's most troubled areas in the contemporary era?

GENERAL DISCUSSION PASSAGES FOR CHAPTER 23

1. Among all of the political and cultural changes in the three decades after 1945, nothing was more revolutionary, more dramatic, or perhaps more unexpected in Europe than the rapid and almost complete demise of the European overseas colonial empires. (p. 925)
2. The Commonwealth did not force its members to act in concert on international issues but it helped to promote useful interchange between the diverse peoples who had once lived within Britain's far-flung empire. (p. 933)
3. The messy conflicts of decolonization in both western and eastern Africa showed (as in Asia) that the British imperial system had never fully established the public institutions, economic opportunities, mass education, and political values that would be needed to sustain stable democratic states in the postcolonial era. (p. 944)
4. The Iranian critique of modern secular cultures and social practices was also part of a broader rejection of the whole European ascendancy that had held sway over most of Asia and Africa since the later nineteenth century and that was now ending in the global processes of decolonization. (p. 957)