Decolonization

A. Causes
- in 1945, 1/3 of world’s population lived in a colonial landholding
- nothing more revolutionary in modern times than the end of European overseas colonial empires

Why?
1. WWII
- war for protection of self-determination, democracy, freedom of peoples without oppression control
- Japanese conquests in Asia and treatment of those people – lack of WE response to League of Nations’ principles
- Cost of fighting war itself for WE nations

2. Indigenous national movements
- developing before WWI – Algeria, India, Vietnam, and Indonesia
- gained strength with participation in 2 world wars, and concessions made due to that
- European-educated leaders, statesmen and intellectuals
  - Jawaharlal Nehru – India
  - Mohandas Gandhi – India
  - Leopold Senghor – Senegal
  - used language of liberty
  - Sekou Touri – Guinea
  - exposed injustices and selfish interests
  - Franz Fanon – West Indies
  - Ho Chi Minh – Vietnam
  - profound destructiveness of imperialism

3. Cost of maintaining colonial possessions became too much after WWII

4. Mass-supported parliamentary parties in WE nations

5. Founding of UN

6. U.S. opposition to colonial empires – principles and self-serving political and economic interests

7. Soviet opposition to colonial empires

B. Colonial Experience
- Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Portugal
- most transfers were non-violent as colonial powers bowed to agitation for independence
  - India – Great Britain (1947)
  - the Philippines, Puerto Rico – U.S.
  - Hong Kong – Britain (1997)
  - Macao – Portugal (1999)
- some were violent
  - Indonesia – Dutch
  - Indochina – French
  - Algeria – French
  - Angola – Portuguese
  - Mozambique – Portuguese

- imperialist colonial experience
- left regions of world underdeveloped economically
- dependence continued on WE for capital technology, manufactures
- while they kept furnishing raw materials, foodstuffs, minerals, oil, and other primary commodities
- modernization programs begun with WE help – met mixed results
- impacted by rapid growth of populations, legacy of colonial and regional wars, struggle to develop, and international CWar conflicts
- term, “developing nation” or Third World (French term to distinguish less economically advanced regions or societies from the two “industrial” worlds: American-led block of capitalist nations and the Soviet-led communist bloc) always signified nonalignment in CW
- even the changes in official names signified end of colonial imperialism


C. British Empire

1. India - 1947
- Indian National Congress (1885) – political elite – Nehru and Gandhi
  - exposure of young Indians to Western ideas of nationalism, socialism, democracy
  - Gandhi – after WWI, led movement with principle of passive resistance
  - Nehru – led Congress party in its push for independence
  - Clement Attlee and others in Labour party wished to focus on internal affairs
  - Lord Louis Mountbatten – appointed to supervise transition of India to independence
- Congress wished to avoid social revolution in complex multiethnic country
  - subcontinent of India had been organized as Viceroy under British rule, and included India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh
- Muslim League (1906) – Muhammad Ali Jinnah – 4 million Muslims who lived under Hindi rule
- British decided to grant independence to 2 nations;
  - India, Hindu, 350 million – Republic of India, and
  - Pakistan, Muslim, 75 million – Islamic Republic of Pakistan – with 2 disconnected parts, West and East – about 60 million Muslims left in India
- Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Burma (Myanmar) also granted independence
- partition immediately led to violence and vast social upheaval
- fighting led to at least 1 million deaths
- mass expulsions and migrations included 17 million Hindus and Muslims
- worst tragedies in northern province of Punjab where Hindu and Sikh religious zealots ambushed and slaughtered thousands of Muslim refugees and Muslim fanatics did the same to Hindu and Sikh refugees
- Gandhi was assassinated in 1948 while praying for peace, by a Hindu extremist protesting his program for religious toleration
- Nehru became prime minister
- under paternalistic approach to a mixed economy, private capitalist enterprises, economic planning, government controls, and nationalization of key industries were undertaken

2. Egypt –
- Linked to the rise in Arab nationalism united by opposition to colonialism and migration of Jews to Palestine
  - Britain refused to yield a tradition point of imperial pride – the Suez Canal
  - 1951 nationalists got Brits to agree to withdraw troops in 3 years
  - 1952, group of army officers deposed King Farouk, who had close ties to Brits – claimed a republic
- wanted to nationalize the Suez Canal to help finance building of Aswan Dam on Nile
- also proposed that Muslim world create an alliance of modern nations, no longer behold to West
- also wiling to take support from Soviets to achieve goals
- France, Britain, and Israel attacked Egypt trying to take back control of Canal – U.S. refused to help
  - France – hoped to destroy what it considered Egyptian source of Arab nationalism
  - Britain – depended on Canal, personal vendetta from PM Sir Anthony Eden
  - Israel – enemies on all sides-wanted Sinai Peninsula as buffer to Egypt
- 3 countries attacked Egypt – Nasser still in power despite tremendous losses
- attack condemned around the world – Suez destroyed Brit’s claims as true imperial power
- U.S. and Soviets demanded their withdrawal and Canal still in Egyptian hands

3. Other nations:
   Ghana (formally the Gold Coast) – 1957
   Nigeria – 1960
   Rhodesia - 1965

D. French Empire

1. Vietnam
- Local independence movement had grown up around communist-led resistance to Vichy government and Japanese occupied during WWII
- Allies actively supported movement led by Ho Chi Minh, who had been at Versailles after WWI asking for independence from world leaders
- FDR did not want French to gain complete control of Indochina after war – looked to an Indo-Chinese trusteeship – French, Indochinese, Chinese, and Russian members
- France offered autonomy to the states of Indochina within a French federation, Cambodia and Laos accepted – Vietnam (as Cochin-China, Tonkin, and Annam jointly became known as) demanded full independence
- Ho had position as major anti-colonial, communist nationalist leader
- 1945 Ho declared independence of Vietnam under the Viet Minh, coalition of nationalists
- 1946-1953 – War for Independence from France was fought
- War drained French morale and resources despite financial aid from U.S. (Ike saw it as war against communism and a way to show support for France so that they would join WE alliances)
  -1952 battle of Dien Bien Phu brought severe defeat to French forces
-1954 Geneva Conference (no U.S. in attendance) brought end of war – country split at 17th parallel until elections could be held for entire country in 2 years
- Elections did take place, but corruption was rampant – civil war ensued after 1954, and later U.S. involvement

2. Algeria
- France took control using brutal military force in early 19c – French and Euro immigrants settled there creating large immigrant communities that came to dominate political and economic life
  - F provided few limited measures for Algerian-self rule with promises of more when WE ways completely adopted
  - by 1945, nationalists pressed for full I
- Algeria was represented in French legislature in Paris, but suffrage leaned towards Euro settlers
  - 9 million inhabitants, about 1 million were Euro, colons
  - colons controlled the economy, owned most of the land and industry – and now feared for survival if Algeria were cut loose from France – also had mistreated Muslim population for years
3. Other Nations:

F. Indonesia
- Dutch East Indies empire
- Indonesian Nationalist party (1927) and growing Communist party struggled for freedom
- After WWII, IN leader, Sukarno proclaimed the country’s independence after Japanese troops left and before the Dutch could return
- from 1945-1949 Dutch fought stubbornly against this nationalist movement but finally ceded independence in 1949

Malayan Peninsula
- granted independence from Britain in 1957 after years of fighting
- tensions between country’s Muslim Malay majority and sizable Chinese and Indian minorities brought there by Brits to work in the tin and rubber mines AND militant communist movement
- 1962 Malaya joined with Singapore and other former Brit dependencies to form Federation of Malaysia

G. Sub-Saharan Africa
- democratic rule gave way to one-party rule or military dictatorships with military oppression and murders
- representative governments were an imperial afterthought and new African nations faced tremendous challenges
- ethnic divisions and civil conflicts did not tear states apart, as Euro partition had set up “artificial boundaries” in their partition of the continent in the late 19th c
- political parties often coalesced along regional and ethnic lines

Sub-Saharan Africa is the term used to describe the area of the African continent which lies south of the Sahara desert. Geographically, the demarcation line is the southern edge of the Sahara Desert.

Many countries such as Chad, Mali, Sudan, Niger, and Mauritania thus belong to both regions, and for this reason some object to the term in its entirety. Since the end of the last Ice Age, the north and sub-Saharan regions of Africa have been separated by the extremely harsh climate...
of the sparsely populated Sahara, forming an effective barrier interrupted by only the Nile River. The modern term *sub-Saharan* corresponds with the standard representation of North as above and South as below. **Tropical Africa** and **Equatorial Africa** are alternative modern labels, used for the distinctive ecology of the region. However, if strictly applied, this term would exclude South Africa, most of which lies outside the Tropics. In 19th Century Europe and the Western world, the area was sometimes referred to as "Black Africa." Africa as a whole was commonly known as "the Dark continent", a term that was usually intended to refer to the Sub-Saharan region. This was partly due to the skin color of its inhabitants and partly because much of it had not been fully mapped or explored by Westerners. These terms are now obsolete and often considered to be pejorative. Further, they are misleading, as dark-skinned Africans are indigenous to much of North Africa, as well. Generally, sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world, still suffering from the legacies of colonialism, slavery, native corruption, and inter-ethnic conflict. The region contains many of the least developed countries in the world. (See **Economy of Africa**.) Sub-Saharan Africa, especially East Africa, is regarded by some geneticists as being the birthplace of the human race (the genus *Homo*). Mitochondrial Eve, from whom all humans alive are descended, is thought to have lived in present day Ethiopia or Tanzania. Sub-Saharan Africa has been the site of many empires and kingdoms, including the Axum, Wagadu (Ghana), Mali, Nok, Songhai, Kanem-Bornu, Benin and Great Zimbabwe. There are 42 countries located on the sub-Saharan African mainland. The 6 island nations include Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros, Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe. Mauritius is generally not considered to be a sub-Saharan African island because the ethnic make up of the country is predominantly East Indian, Chinese and French. According to this classification scheme, the countries of sub-Saharan Africa are:

**Central Africa**

- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Republic of Congo
- Central African Republic
- Rwanda
- Burundi

**East Africa**

- Sudan (also part of North Africa)
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Somalia (including Somaliland)

**Southern Africa**

- Angola
- Botswana
- Lesotho
- Malawi
• Mozambique
• Namibia
• South Africa
• Swaziland
• Zambia
• Zimbabwe

West Africa

• Benin
• Burkina Faso
• Cameroon
• Chad
• Côte d'Ivoire
• Equatorial Guinea
• Gabon
• The Gambia
• Ghana
• Guinea
• Guinea-Bissau
• Liberia
• Mali
• Mauritania
• Niger
• Nigeria
• Senegal
• Sierra Leone
• Togo

African island nations

• Cape Verde (West Africa)
• Comoros (Southern Africa)
• Madagascar (Southern Africa)
• Mauritius (Southern Africa)
• São Tomé and Príncipe (West Africa)
• Seychelles (East Africa)

H. Cultural imperialism