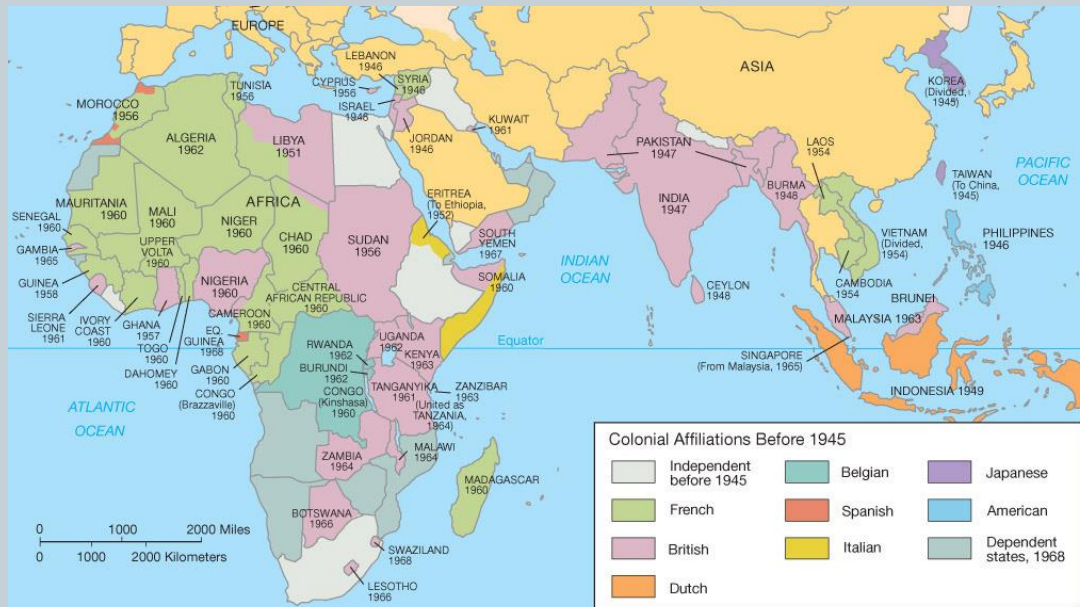


# Europe and the World: Decolonization



## AP EUROPEAN HISTORY



# Introduction



- *Decolonization*: the process of becoming free of colonial status and achieving statehood
- Between WWI and WWII, movements for independence begun in earnest in Africa and Asia
- Dominance of colonial powers seemed at odds with Allied goals in WWII.
- Call for national self-determination – fight for independence.
- Empires reluctant to let colonies go.

# Introduction



- Churchill: “I have not become His Majesty’s Chief Minister to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire”
- European power destroyed by WWII.
- G.B. no longer had energy or wealth to maintain a colonial empire.

# Introduction

- Between 1947 and 1962, virtually every colony achieved independence and statehood.
- Difficult and bitter process.
- Created a new world – non-Western states ended era of Western domination.



# Africa: The Struggle for Independence



- After WWII, colonial rule in Africa would have to end.
- Little had been done to prepare the colonies for self-rule.
- Political organizations formed pre-war
  - Convention People's Party: Kwame Nkrumah
  - Kenya African National Union: Jomo Kenyatta
- Most political activities were non-violent.
- Constituents were primarily merchants, urban professionals, and members of labor unions.

# Africa: The Struggle for Independence



The Tory Colonial Secretary, Alan Lennox-Boyd (in trilby hat), inspects a loyalist Kikuyu Home Guard unit.

- Kenyan Mau Mau movement:
  - Employed terrorism to achieve goal of *uhuru* (freedom).
  - Convinced G.B. to promise eventual independence in 1959.

# Africa: The Struggle for Independence



- Egypt became an independent republic in 1952, after being quasi-independent monarchy under British control since 1922.
- French not strong enough to maintain control over entire empire.
- France granted full independence to Morocco and Tunisia in 1956.
- Retained possession of Algeria.

# Africa: The Struggle for Independence



- Algerian nationalist group National Liberation Front initiated guerrilla war in 1954 for independence.
- Charles de Gaulle granted Algeria independence in 1962.



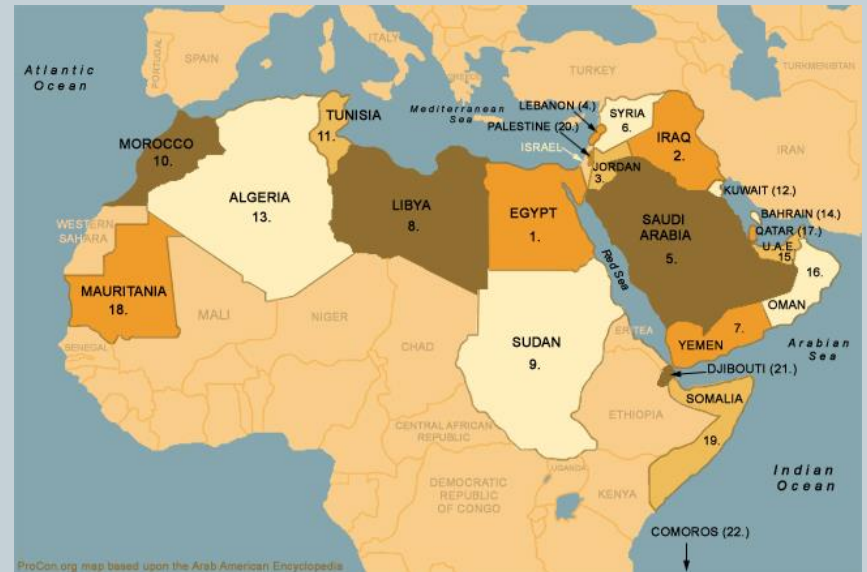
# Africa: The Struggle for Independence



- **South Africa**
  - Formation of African National Congress in 1912.
  - Goal of ANC was economic and political reforms, including equality for educated Africans.
  - Whites created system of segregation known as *apartheid*
  - ANC called for armed resistance after arrest of Nelson Mandela in 1962.
- **Most black African nations achieved independence in the late 1950s and 1960s.**

# Conflict in the Middle East

- Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon became independent after WWII.
- Idea of Arab unity led to formation of Arab League in 1945.



# Conflict in the Middle East



- **The Question of Palestine**
  - British reduced Jewish immigration in Palestine in 1930s.
  - Zionists turned to U.S. for support.
  - Truman administration approved independent Jewish state in Palestine.
  - May 14, 1948, UN proclaimed new state of Israel
  - Arab states refused to recognize existence of Israel

# Conflict in the Middle East



- **Nasser and Pan-Arabism**
  - Col Gamal Abdel Nasser seized control of Egypt in 1954
  - 1968: Nationalized the Suez Canal Company.
  - British and French launched a joint attack on Egypt to protect investment; joined by Israel.
  - U.S. and Soviet Union supported Nasser
  - March 1958: Egypt united with Syria in United Arab Republic.
  - Hoped that union would eventually include all Arab states.
  - UAR ended when military leaders seized control of Syria.

# Conflict in the Middle East



- **The Arab-Israeli Dispute**
  - 1964: Egypt took lead forming Palestine Liberation Organization
  - Believed only Palestinian peoples had right to form a state in Palestine.
  - Al-Fatah, led by Yasir Arafat, began to launch terrorist attacks on Israeli territory.
  - June 5, 1967, Israel launched preemptive strikes against Egypt and several Arab states, wiping out most of the Egyptian air force.

# Conflict in the Middle East



- **Arab-Israeli Dispute (cont'd)**
  - Six-Day War devastated Nasser's forces and tripled the size of Israeli territory.
  - Egypt launched air and artillery attack on Israeli positions in the Sinai on Yom Kippur, 1973



# Asia: Nationalism and Communism



- U.S. granted independence to the Philippines in 1946.
- Great Britain soon did same in India.
- Ethnic and religious differences made process difficult and violent.
- British negotiated with both Indian National Congress (Hindu) and the Muslim League.
- Muslims and Hindus were unwilling to accept a single Indian state.
- British India divided into two states: India (Hindu) and Pakistan (Muslim).

# Asia: Nationalism and Communism



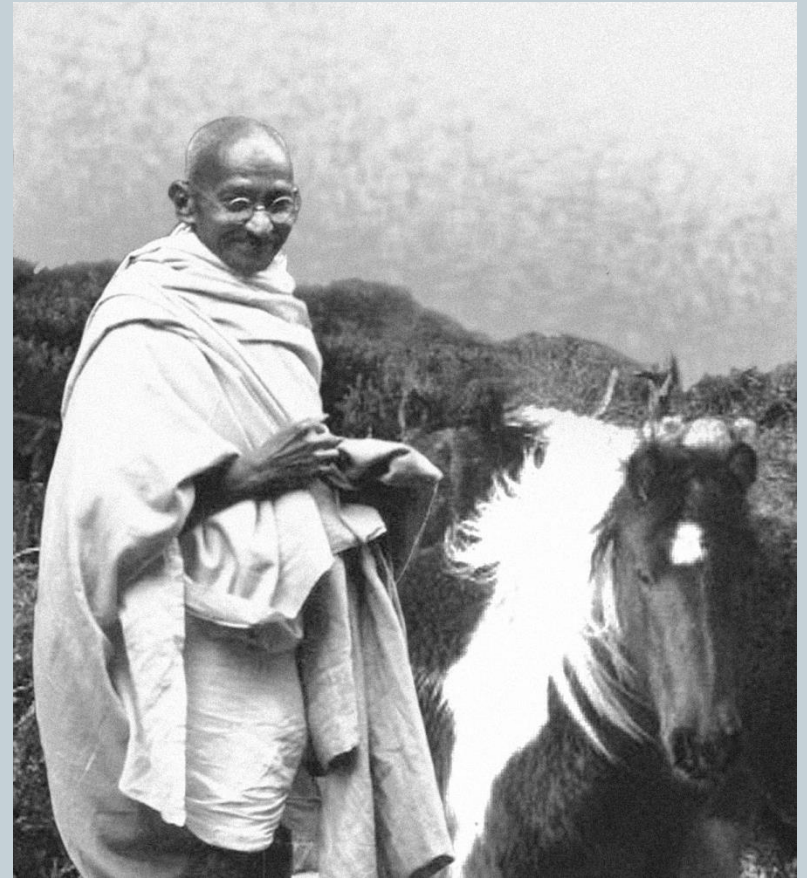
- 1948: Britain granted independence to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Burma (Myanmar).





# Asia: Nationalism and Communism

- Only Mahatma Gandhi objected to the division of India.
- India and Pakistan granted independence in Aug 1947; million were killed trying to cross borders.
- Gandhi assassinated January 30, 1948.



# Asia: Nationalism and Communism



- Indonesia emerged from Dutch East Indies in 1949.
- French tried to remain in Indochina, causing bloody struggle with Vietnamese nationalist guerrillas led by Ho Chi Minh.
- After defeat in 1954, France granted independence to Laos and Cambodia; Vietnam was temporarily divided, eventually causing Vietnam War.

# Asia: Nationalism and Communism

- China under Communism
  - 2 governments:  
Nationalists led by Chiang Kai-shek in southern and central China (supported by Americans) and Communists led by Mao Zedong in North China.

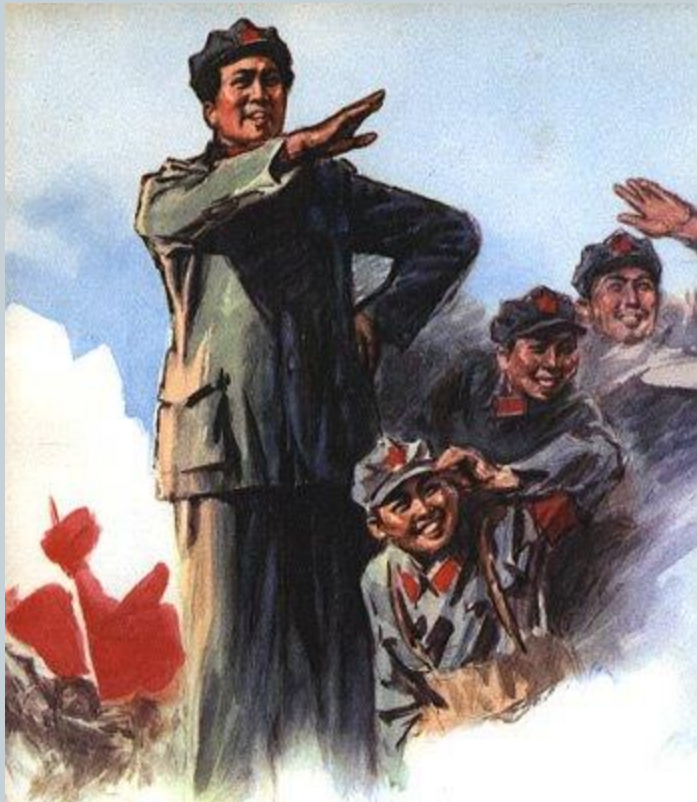


# Asia: Nationalism and Communism



- **China Under Communism (cont'd)**
  - Full-scale war broke out in 1946.
  - In 1949, Chiang's government and 2 million of his followers fled to Taiwan.
  - 1955: Chinese government collectivized all private farmland and nationalized most industry and commerce.
  - Began radical program called Great Leap Forward in 1958 to increase productivity; it was a disaster.

# Asia: Nationalism and Communism



- China Under Communism (cont'd)
  - Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution lasted from 1966 to 1976.
  - Red Guards wanted to eliminate “four olds” – old ideas, old culture, old customs, and old habits.

# Asia: Nationalism and Communism

- China Under Communism (cont'd)
  - People began to turn against revolution, and reformers seized power when Mao died in September 1976.





# Decolonization and Cold War Rivalries



- Independent nations found themselves caught in rivalry between US and USSR.
- Vietnam: northern half Communist-ruled and southern half supported by American financial and military aid.



# Decolonization and Cold War Rivalries



- Many new nations, like India, attempted to remain neutral in Cold War.
- Neutral nations were put at odds with the U.S., who tried to mobilize all nations against the communist threat.



# Decolonization and Cold War Rivalries



- **Indonesia**

- President Sukarno allied himself with Communist China and Soviet Union.
- Relied on domestic support for Indonesian Communist Party.
- Overthrown by conservative Muslim army in 1965
- Military government was established under General Suharto.
- Suharto re-established good relations with the West and attempted to repair economy.