

# APW: Unit VII: CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL REALIGNMENTS

## Chapter 37: THE END OF EMPIRE

### 1. Survey

2. Read chapter and do “New to you” vocab (5-15 words you are unfamiliar with that are not strictly “historical” terms).

3. Take notes on the chapter that thoroughly answer the study guide questions. Be organized and make them “studyable”.

**DUE: 5/4**

---

One of the most dramatic developments of the postwar era was the rapid breakup of the colonial empires that had dominated the world at the beginning of the century. Between 1945 and 1975, most of the former colonies of Africa and Asia became independent states. (Namibia was the last, in 1990). A number of forces contributed to the process of decolonialism and helped shape postcolonial societies, including:

- Wars of liberation. The road to independence was sometimes amicable, as in Ghana and Morocco, but was often fiercely contested, as in Kenya and Algeria. Colonial powers fought to recover the empires that once attested to their world dominance. Concern for local settler populations also contributed to their resistance. In Vietnam the struggle for national liberation began with resistance to the Japanese during the war and continued afterward against the French.
- Cold war politics. In the global conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union (discussed in Chapter 38), new states were pressured to choose between the superpowers. Foreign aid and military support were often contingent on an alliance. Stronger nations like India presented a third alternative, nonalignment, with limited success.
- Ethnic and religious conflicts. Nationalism was a powerful force in postwar independence movements. In states where the national identity was defined by religion or ethnicity, however, this force could lead to internal and regional conflicts. The partition of India into Muslim and Hindu states did little to ease tensions in that region. The Iran-Iraq war was fueled by both religious and ethnic differences. In sub-Saharan Africa, where national boundaries bore little relation to tribal lands, each new nation was a potential hothouse for ethnic conflict.
- Fragile new democracies. Many of the new states were ill-prepared for self-government, lacking both the institutions and traditions that support democracy. In Sub-Saharan Africa, democratic governments were soon taken over by military dictators, and those states often plunged into prolonged civil wars. South Africa was technically a democracy but, until 1990, only for a small white ruling class. Likewise in east Asia, new states were governed by military regimes until the late 1980s. Notable exceptions to this global retreat from democracy are Mexico and India, both relatively stable and continuous democracies.
- Creation of Israel. The creation of a new Jewish state in previously Muslim Palestine eased western guilt over the atrocities of the Second World War. The achievements of modern Israel are undeniable. Lacking significant oil or mineral resources, Israel is nonetheless the most prosperous and democratic state in the region. Unresolved tensions over the status of Muslim Palestinians and the future of the Occupied Territories continue to threaten the region and hamper efforts to find a peaceful resolution.

### Historical Terms and Concepts to know - Who, What, Where, When, Why, and So What? (use the proper format)

- |                        |                             |                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Gandhi              | 10. Négritude               | 19. Saddam Hussein/WMD |
| 2. Muhammad Ali Jinnah | 11. Mau Mau subversives     | 20. Gulf War           |
| 3. Jawaharlal Nehru    | 12. Mao Zedong              | 21. PRI                |
| 4. Ho Chi Minh         | 13. Cultural Revolution     | 22. the Perons         |
| 5. Viet Cong           | 14. Deng Xiaoping           | 23. Contras            |
| 6. Palestine           | 15. Tianamen Square protest | 24. Sandinistas        |
| 7. Zionism             | 16. Indira Gandhi           | 25. Apartheid          |
| 8. Balfour Declaration | 17. Islamism                | 26. Nelson Mandela     |
| 9. Suez Crisis         | 18. Iranian Revolution      |                        |

### Study Guide:

1. What factors led to the partition of India? What kinds of states emerged?
2. What were the goals of the nonaligned movement? How successful was this effort? What were some of the obstacles to nonalignment?
3. Trace the Arab-Israeli conflict from 1947 to 1980. Why has this conflict been so difficult to resolve?
4. What factors have tended to unite the Arab nations since independence? What factors have divided them?
5. Compare the process of independence for both Ghana and Kenya. What factors might account for the differences?
6. What steps did the Chinese Communist Party take to transform the economy of China after the revolution? What were the results of these measures?
7. What have been the greatest challenges confronting the new Indian democracy after independence in 1947? How has India managed to survive as a democracy while other nations of east Asia have not?
8. What are the goals and concerns of the modern Islamist movement? What specific policies and actions have emerged from this movement?
9. Compare the recent political history of Mexico and Argentina. What factors might account for the differences?
10. What factors led the Reagan administration to support the Contra rebels of Nicaragua? What was the outcome of this policy?
11. What kind of society emerged in South Africa under apartheid? What factors led to the end of apartheid?