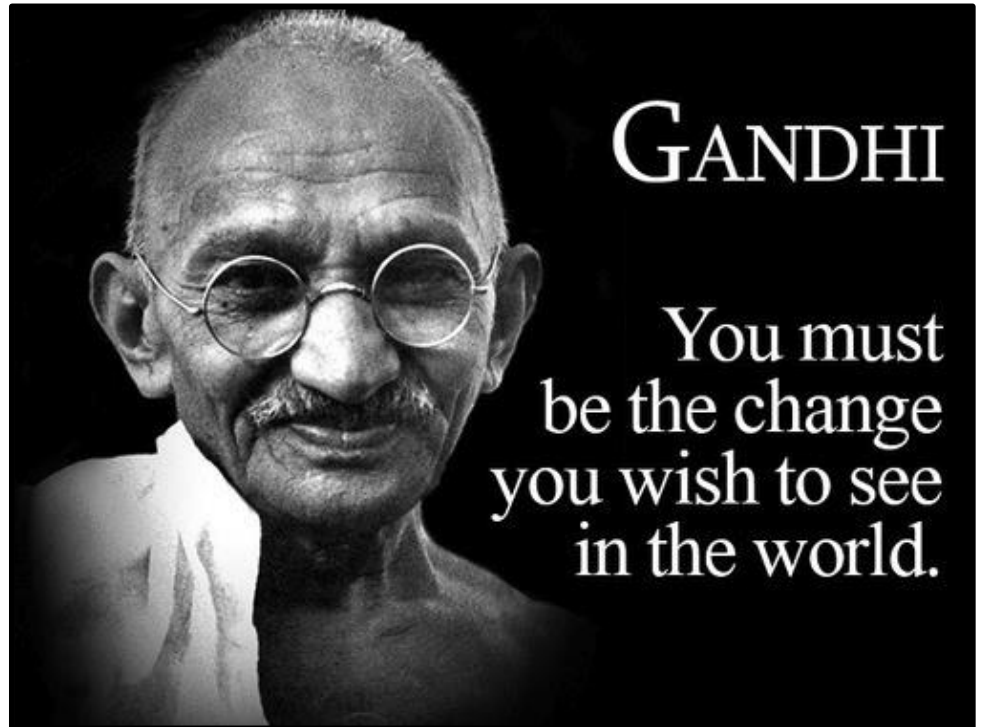


### End of Empires

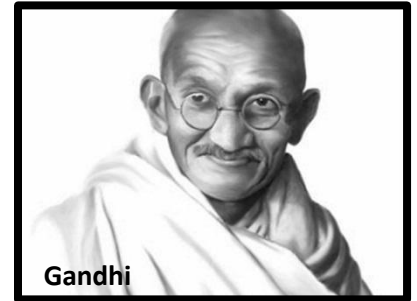
Enduring Understanding: Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the world's attention no longer focuses on the tension between super powers. Although problems rooted in the Middle East have captured the world's attention more consistently than the majority of current issues, other concerns have moved to the forefront as well. To understand the modern world, you will compare the features of nationalist and independent movements in different regions in the post-World War II period. This will include Mohandas Gandhi's role in the non-violence movement for India's independence, the emergence of nationalist movements in African and Asian countries, and the collapse of the apartheid system in South Africa.



Following World War II, nationalist movements in Asian and African countries intensified and independence was achieved in many nations. In Asia, the nationalist movement in India actually gained strength after the First World War and had its roots in the Sepoy Rebellion. Although India would not gain its independence until after the Second World War, it served as a model and inspiration for many other nations in Asia and Africa following World War II.



After World War I, the conflict between the **Hindus** and **Muslims** created an obstacle to independence from the British. The **Indian National Congress** consisted of mainly Hindus, while the Muslims had their own organization called the **Muslim League**. The Muslims feared that the Hindus would dominate the new government when



independence was achieved. As the leader of the independence movement, **Mohandas Gandhi**, focused on using **civil disobedience** and **passive resistance**, or nonviolence.

Gandhi called for boycotts of British goods and encouraged Indians to make their own clothing rather than buying clothing from the British. The Indians were forced to buy salt only from the British, so Gandhi organized the **Salt March**, in which the Indians collected saltwater from the sea in order to make their own salt. Gandhi also protested British rule by fasting. Gandhi's nonviolent methods were very effective, as the boycotts hurt the British economically.

In 1935, the British gave the Indians self-rule and after World War II ended, the British were ready to give India its independence. The colony was expensive to run and the British had to recover economically after the war. Although they were ready to provide India with its independence, the British worried about the animosity between the Hindus and Muslims. As a result, the British decided to divide the Indian subcontinent into two states. **India** was created for the Hindus and **Pakistan** was established for the Muslims. The British gave the two nations independence in 1947, and millions of Hindus and Muslims moved to their new countries. During the migration, violence occurred between the two groups and approximately one million people were killed.



### Section Review:

- 1) When did African and Asian nations begin to gain freedom from imperial powers?
- 2) What group made up the majority of the Indian National Congress? What organization did the Muslims form?
- 3) What European nation ruled India?
- 4) Who led the movement for independence in India?
- 5) What is civil disobedience?
- 6) What was the purpose of the Salt March?

7) Why was it necessary to partition/divide the country of India?

8) Why was there a great migration of people in India?



The two countries also fought over the region of Kashmir after independence was granted. India controlled the region, but most of its residents were Muslims. The United Nations eventually enforced a cease-fire between the two countries, giving Pakistan one third of Kashmir, and India control of the rest of the region. India and Pakistan continue to disagree over ownership of Kashmir.



The country of Pakistan had internal issues. The country's government was located in West Pakistan, and the people of East Pakistan felt ignored. East Pakistan declared independence in 1971 and called itself Bangladesh. A civil war then ensued between Pakistan and Bangladesh. Assisted by India, Bangladesh won.



**Section Review:**

9) Why is there a conflict over Kashmir?

10) How was Bangladesh formed?

Countries in Southeast Asia also achieved independence after World War II. The Philippines became independent from the United States, as did the British colonies of Sri Lanka, Burma, Malaysia, and Singapore. Indonesia was granted its independence from the Dutch.



**Section Review:**

11) What nation gave the Philippines independence?



There were many similarities and differences between the independence movements in Africa and Asia. In Africa, like in Asia, nationalist movements gained momentum after World War II. Many African colonies wanted to free themselves from European rule and African leaders emerged to lead the independence movements.



The African country of **Ghana** gained independence in 1957. **Kwame Nkrumah** led his people to independence by organizing boycotts and strikes just as Gandhi had done in India. Other nations, however, had to use force in order to gain independence.

**Algerian** independence from the French was violently won. Algerians organized themselves into the **Algerian National Liberation Front** and fought against hundreds of thousands of French troops who were sent to suppress the nationalists. Algeria prevailed and won independence in 1962.



Many British settlers were opposed to giving **Kenya** its independence. **Jomo Kenyatta**, who was the primary nationalist leader, claimed he had no connection to the **Mau Mau**, Kenyans who used guerilla warfare tactics to fight the British settlers. The British imprisoned Kenyatta for his lack of criticism of the actions of the Mau Mau. Kenya



received independence in 1963, and Kenyatta became its first president.

**Angola** fought to free itself of Portuguese rule.

The **Congo** is an example of an African country that experienced civil war and social unrest after receiving independence. As had been the practice under imperialism, colonial rule had exploited the colonies' resources, and the Africans had not been trained to run their own political institutions. Rival ethnicities would not cooperate, and civil war erupted, allowing a dictatorship to be established, which brought instability to the region.



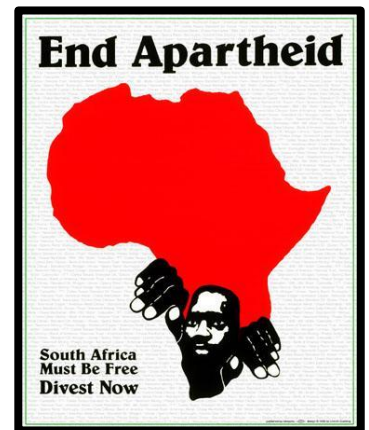
### Section Review:

- 12) What was the first African nation to gain independence? Who led the people of this country?
- 13) What European nation did Algeria gain independence from?
- 14) Who was the nationalist leader in Kenya?
- 15) Describe how the Mau Mau fought against the British.
- 16) Who became the first president of independent Kenya?
- 17) Which nation colonized Angola?
- 18) Why has the Congo experienced so much social unrest?

In **South Africa**, a major difference is that independence had actually been granted prior to both world wars, but the issue of apartheid remained as a legacy of European rule. South Africa was granted its independence from the British in 1910. In order to maintain power, the minority white population in South Africa, descendants of Europeans, created a social and political system that shut out the black majority. South Africa's black majority was constitutionally denied rights beginning in the mid-1930s. In 1948, **apartheid**, the legal segregation of whites and blacks, was instituted. In 1959, homelands for black South Africans were created, forcing the majority of the people to live on a small percentage of selected inferior land. Groups formed in opposition to the policy, such as the **African National Congress (ANC)**, but such groups were deemed illegal. Those who spoke out in opposition of apartheid were imprisoned, such as ANC leader **Nelson Mandela**, while others, such as Stephen Biko, were killed. In 1989, a new president, **F.W. DeKlerk** was elected. DeKlerk legalized the ANC and released Mandela from prison. Soon after, the South African parliament repealed (ended) apartheid laws. In 1994, the first universal elections were held, during which Mandela was elected president, a position he held until 1999.



Nelson Mandela



F. W. DeKlerk and Nelson Mandela

### Section Review:

- 19) What is apartheid?
- 20) What nation ruled South Africa until 1910?
- 21) What is the ANC?
- 22) Who was the leader of the ANC?
- 23) What happened to Stephen Biko?
- 24) Who was president of South Africa in 1989? Name at least two things he did while in office.
- 25) When did South Africa hold its first universal election and who was elected president?

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