

Nationalism in Sub-Saharan Africa

Impact of WWI: Weak European Imperialism

- To win support of Western-educated elites and new allies in different regions, French and British made many promises regarding postwar colonial relationships.
 - Primarily promised independence; Created a great deal of postwar strain when this did not come to pass
- War cast doubt on white racial supremacy
- War gave support to anti-colonial movements in European colonies which are characterized by three themes.
 - 1) Led by charismatic, Western-educated elites who support nationalism.
 - 2) Leaders will rally peasant and urban masses.
 - 3) Leaders will often rely on nonviolent forms of protest.

Impact of WWII - Decolonization

- The devastation of World War II drained the resources of the European powers, but WWII also enhanced the power of the United States and the USSR.
- Atlantic Charter of 1941: an agreement between the United States and Great Britain that outlined goals of the war (later agreed to by all Allies)
 - Restore self-government to colonies
- Allies fighting against Nazi imperialism
 - Invoking colonial support
 - Keeping colonies after WWII was just illogical (at least in many cases).
- World Wars cast doubt on idea of advanced western culture.



Negotiated Independence

- Some African colonies negotiated their independence from European nations.
- Example: Gold Coast, which became the nation of Ghana.

Independence in Ghana (1957)

- African colonies were affected by WWII by forced labor, confiscation of crops and resources, and inflation.
 - Since African colonies had to supply materials for mid-WWII Europe, industrialization occurred in Africa.
- Kwame Nkrumah led the decolonization process to establish Ghana.
 - Nkrumah established the Convention Peoples' Party, and organized mass rallies, boycotts, and strikes against British.
 - 1957: Great Britain recognized Nkrumah as the prime minister of independent Ghana.
 - First African colony to gain independence



Kwame Nkrumah (1957-1966)

- 1957: Ghana achieves independence.
- Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana, was at first interested in social reform and economic uplift.
 - Problems emerge (decreasing demand for cocoa, rival political groups).
- Nkrumah assumed dictatorial powers, brutally suppressed opposition, and created a form of African socialism.
 - Drove away Western investors that would have likely aided Ghana more
- 1966: Nkrumah journeys to communist Vietnam on a peace mission and was deposed by a military coup.
- 1972: Dies in exile in Guinea



Independence through armed struggle

- Violence is used by European colonizer and/or African nationalists within independence movements.
 - Kenya, Algeria
- Violence is prevalent, not to achieve independence, but to oppress some elements of the population.’
 - South Africa

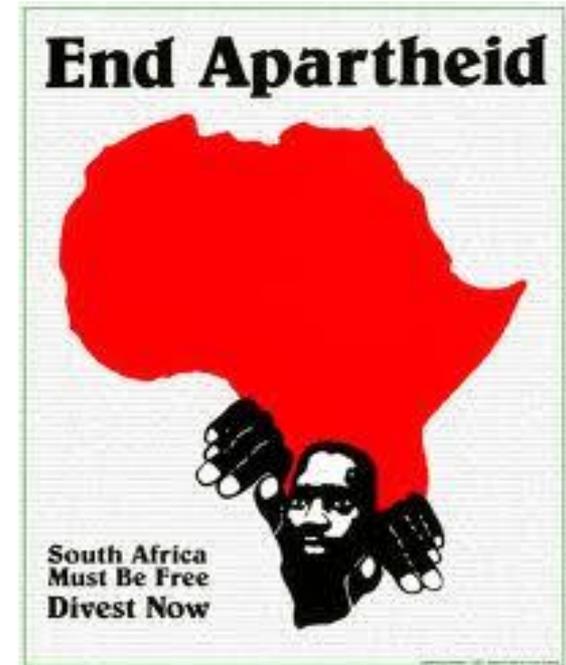
The Problem in Settler Colonies

- 1960: Belgium gave up the Congo, although there was no real nationalist movement for independence.
- Settler colonies (Algeria, Kenya, South Africa) saw more violence in decolonization because European settlers were reluctant to turn political control over to the African majority.
 - In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta and his nationalist party, the Kenya African Union, formed the Land Freedom Army in the 1950s and used terror and guerilla warfare against the British.
 - Kenya received independence in 1963; Kenyatta serves as first Prime Minister.



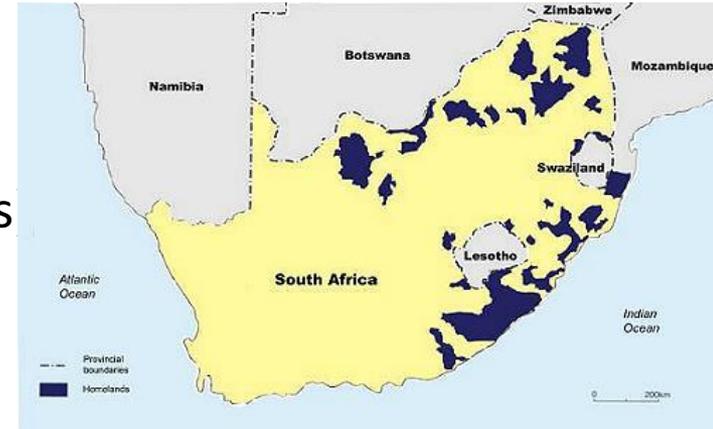
Tension in South Africa

- Whites in South Africa are minority: split between Afrikaners (Dutch descendants) and English settlers.
 - In South Africa, the Afrikaners (Dutch descendants) had no option to return to Europe.
- The Afrikaner National Party emerged as the majority party in an all-white South African legislature.
 - 1948: Apartheid, extremely restrictive racial segregation, was established to keep Afrikaners in political and economic dominance.
 - Africans cannot vote, separate living, poor jobs
 - 1961: win complete independence from Britain, which came without violence.



South Africa and Apartheid

- Apartheid: ensured monopoly of political power and economic dominance for white South Africans.
- Homelands (designated areas for ethnic groups) were created.
- The African National Congress was declared illegal; its leaders (incl. Nelson Mandela) were jailed.
- President F.W. de Klerk pushed for reforms to begin dismantling apartheid.
 - Believed apartheid was hurting South Africa's economy and global reputation
 - Key black political prisoners were released in 1990
- 1994: All adult South Africans were given the right to vote → Nelson Mandela became the first black president of South Africa.



Conditions after independence and nation status

- The Big Picture
 - Leaders were charismatic, western educated, and familiar with western culture
 - However, almost everybody within Africa were very uneducated.
 - When you don't have doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc., it's impossible to create a stable, productive nation.
 - Due to instability, military dictators (strongmen) emerged.
 - Colonial borders ignored native customs, history, and loyalties.
 - After nationalism occurred, borders remained in place, with horrific consequences.

Outcomes of Colonialism

- European colonizers established arbitrary boundaries and often combined hostile ethnic/religious groups.
 - Under colonial rule, regional wars and famine had been much reduced due to European control
 - Now in newly-independent countries, regional wars and famine are not as well controlled.
 - These become the two major barriers to population growth in newly-independent regions.
- Overall, however, populations increased after colonial rule because Europeans had aided with the eradication of diseases and had improved medical treatment, hygiene, and water purification.

Neocolonial Economy

- Largest barrier to economic breakthrough: soaring populations
- Newly independent nations often lacked complete resources and had challenges distributing those they did have.
 - Rivalries and civil wars consumed many resources that could have been devoted to economic development.
 - Most post-colonial nations wanted to finish industrialization and began rapid economic development.
 - Gold, copper, diamonds exported from South African mines
- Neocolonial Economy: global economy dominated by industrialized and mostly Western nations
 - Mostly yields limited returns for Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
 - Most newly independent countries rely on the export of two or three cash crops or raw materials.
 - These products fluctuate in price → strain economies (this revenue is used to plan government projects).
 - Many of these countries rely on international organizations for assistance (World Bank; International Monetary Fund)

Parasitic Cities and Endangered Ecosystems

- As populations increased in rural areas, mass migrations to urban areas occurred.
 - Little available land; few jobs in cities with heavy competition
 - Crime in cities increases
 - Slum areas (makeshift shelters) often seen in close proximity to large, wealthy urban areas.
- Rural overpopulation has led to soil depletion and alarming rates of deforestation for livestock grazing and farming.
 - Many animals are endangered or extinct
 - Massive pollution of air and water



Gender Issues

- In many African and Asian countries, there has been resistance to birth control efforts to control population growth.
 - Result of deeply entrenched social patterns, religious beliefs, and skepticism of Western influence
 - Africa: children are critical additions to the lineage.
 - In developing countries, a high percentage of the population (40% in some places) is under the age of 15.
- Women's suffrage, but little else, was often written into post-colonial constitutions.
 - Religious revivalism sometimes erodes women's rights.
 - Male-centric customs and tradition often result in malnutrition in women and children.
 - Women saw increased educational and employment opportunities.
 - Early marriages expected; confine women.
 - *Shariah* law imposed in many Muslim countries.
- Female politicians were often connected to powerful male politicians (Indira Gandhi)



African Ethnic Conflicts

- Central African conflicts were mainly ethnic conflicts.
- Many considered genocide: target whole populations with goal of decreasing their numbers
 - Rwanda: Hutus (majority) and Tutsis (minority; in political power)
 - Congo (civil war)
 - Sudan (government forces and rebel groups)
 - Nigeria: Biafra secessionist movement
- Violence frequently involves heavily armed children and rape.

