

Patterns of African History in the Twentieth Century

- ⇒ Africa south of the Sahara was taken over by Europeans at the end of the 19th century. Nationalism in Africa rose out of the African participation in World War I, and the discussion of national rights followed.
- ⇒ During in the inter-war years, Africa remained under European imperialism with Europe's assumption of African inferiority and its attack on African religious traditions.
- ⇒ Continued pressure for economic changes increased the ties of Africa to the world economy, although the profits went to Europeans.
- ⇒ As tensions developed, African bitterness toward European control broke periodically into an open challenge. In the 1920s, African intellectuals influenced by the United States and West Indian blacks began to glorify the strengths of African culture and society and spreading nationalist ideas.
- ⇒ Africans participated in World War II and expected full political rights in return.
- ⇒ European reluctance was met by a new generation of African nationalist leaders trained in European universities and determined to free their countries from European control.
- ⇒ Independent Africa struggled with the issues of building stable political institutions and economic development, as well as defining its cultural identity.

Decolonization in Africa - Black African nationalism and independence:

- ⇒ Growth of African nationalism
 - Began as grassroots protest against European imperialism
 - African nationalism celebrated Negritude (blackness), African roots
- ⇒ Obstacles to African independence
 - Imperial powers assumed Africans were not ready for self-government
 - White settlers opposed black independence
 - Anticommunist fears justified interference in African politics
 - Economic and political instability often hampered post-independent Africa

The Beginnings of the Liberation Struggle in Africa.

- ⇒ Most Western-educated Africans remained loyal to their colonial rulers during World War I. Along with traditional African rulers they gained local authority as the Europeans drew upon their lands for men and resources. The war disrupted colonial life because of reaction to recruitment of soldiers and laborers and interruption of export crops.
- ⇒ The failure of Europeans after the war to keep promises of further reform and the effects of the Great Depression contributed to unrest. Western-educated politicians began to organize during the 1920s; some were influenced by Afro-American leaders, such as Marcus Garvey or W.E.B. Du Bois, and the Pan- Africanist movement.
- ⇒ By the mid-1920s nationalist leaders from the British and French colonies were on separate paths. French subjects focused on Paris and the Négritude movement formed by such writers as Léopold Sédar Senghor, Aimé Césaire and Léon Damas.
- ⇒ By the 1930s new and vigorous leaders came forward

The Liberation of Nonsettler Africa.

- ⇒ World War II had the same impact in Africa as in other colonial regions. The British and French were forced to reverse policies to allow some industrial development which spurred rural migration to the cities. One path to independence was followed in colonies without a European settler population.
- ⇒ In the British Gold Coast (later Ghana) Kwame Nkrumah introduced a new style of politics, using mass rallies, boycotts, and strikes. Nkrumah gained concessions from the British through winning elections and secured independence for Ghana in 1957. Most other British nonsettler colonies gained independence through peaceful means by the mid-1960s.

- ⇒ The French took a roughly similar line with most of their territories. Moderate African leaders who were willing to retain ties to France dominated the nationalist process in West Africa. By 1960 all were free -- EXCEPT Algeria in North Africa.
- ⇒ The Belgians experienced more difficulties in the Congo as they precipitously withdrew before a newly organized nationalist movement.
- ⇒ The Portuguese still clung to their colonies.

Repression and Guerrilla War: The Struggle for the Settler Colonies

- ⇒ Territories with large European settler populations had a more difficult decolonization experience. Racist settlers blocked the rise of African nationalist movements as they fought to defend their numerous privileges.
- ⇒ Anticolonial rebellion in Kenya:
 - 1930s and 1940s, Kikuyu pushed off farm lands, reduced to wage slaves
 - When peaceful efforts led by Jomo Kenyatta failed, more radical Africans formed the Land Freedom Army (called by the British the Mau Mau) and commenced a guerrilla campaign against the British and other Africans
 - Labeling Mau Mau as communist subversives, Britain gained U.S. support
 - The British defeated the rebel movement - 12,000 Africans killed - and imprisoned Kenyatta and other nonviolent leaders.
 - The British government then turned to negotiation with Africans; Kenya gained independence in 1963 and Kenyatta was the first president.
- ⇒ The struggle in Algeria, with more than a million French settlers, was much more violent. The French defeated rebel forces in battle but never fully contained them.
 - Revolt of May 1954 was repressed by French; 8000 Algerian Muslims died
 - War in Algeria, 1954-1962
 - Algerian nationalists pursued guerrilla warfare against French rule
 - By 1958, a half-million French soldiers were committed to the conflict
 - Atrocities on both sides; heavy civilian casualties
 - Algerian independence, 1962
 - Revolutionary writer Franz Fanon urged violence as weapon against colonial racism
 - Independence came through negotiations in 1962. Most of the settlers then left

The Persistence of White Supremacy in South Africa

- ⇒ Portugal's colonies, Angola and Mozambique, secured independence after revolutionary struggle in 1975.
- ⇒ Southern Rhodesia's (now Zimbabwe) Africans won independence by 1980.
- ⇒ In South Africa the large and long resident minority European population held on to control.
 - The Afrikaners lacked a European homeland to retreat to and over the centuries had built up a racist white supremacy ideology.
 - The British had abandoned Africans to Afrikaner racist rule after the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902).
 - Afrikaners won internal political control in 1948 and built the racial segregation system known as apartheid which reserved political, social, and economic rights for whites. The brutal Afrikaner police state hampered the growth of African parties.