DECOLONIZATION AND AFRICA
COLONIES AND WORLD WAR II
Surge of anti-colonial nationalism after 1945. Leaders used lessons in mass politicization and mass mobilization of the 1920s and 1930s.

Three major patterns:
- Civil War (China)
- Negotiated independence (India and much of Africa)
- Incomplete decolonization (Algeria, Southern Africa, Vietnam)
COLONIALISM IN CHINA
CHINA IN 1949
GANGHI ON THE SALT MARCH
INDIA AFTER PARTITION

[Map showing regions of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, with a noted disputed border.]
VIET MINH FIGHTERS
VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, LAOS, AND THAILAND
1931, Britain: *Statute of Westminster*
- Converted the British Empire into the British Commonwealth
- Also allowed varying degrees of autonomy
# British Empire in Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area/Country</th>
<th>Independence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anglo-Egyptian Sudan</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Cameroon → split between Nigeria &amp; Republic of Cameroon</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast → Ghana</td>
<td>1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyasaland → Malawi</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somaliland → joined Italian Somaliland as Republic of Somalia</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Rhodesia → independence under white minority rule</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanganyika → joined Zanzibar as Tanzania</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togoland → joined Ghana (independent in 1957)</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>1962</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1941: Atlantic Charter written by Roosevelt and Churchill, affirming all other nations have the right to self determination.

By the end of World War II, colonialism seemed to contradict the spirit of the Allies fight against Nazi Germany and fascist Italy.

Africans had fought in Europe and Asia for the Allies’ freedom and democracy, and most noticed the contradiction.
“STRETCHED AROUND THE WORLD”
Political cartoon, 1941.
Jagama Kello, left, was fifteen when he raised a force of guerrilla fighters and led them against the Italian forces occupying Ethiopia in World War II.
Africa’s forgotten soldiers in WW2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLONIAL POWER</th>
<th>Troop numbers (approximate)</th>
<th>Forces and countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRITAIN</td>
<td>334,000</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>289,530</td>
<td>King’s Africa Rifles: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>243,550</td>
<td>Royal West Africa Frontier Force: Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Gambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANCE (both Vichy and Free French)</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Southern Africa: Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>77,767</td>
<td>Mauritius, Seychelles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>Colonial troops: Algeria, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Niger, Republic of Congo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALY INDEPENDENT BELGIUM</td>
<td>190,000</td>
<td>Eritrean colonial troops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>Ethiopia - Patriots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>Congo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 1,355,347

Source: Fighting for Britain: African Soldiers in the Second World War, Spring 2010
In 1945, the 5th Pan-African Congress met and discussed the prospect of independence. In attendance were a number of leaders who would eventually lead their nations.

- W.E.B. DuBois (United States)
- Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana)
- Jaja Wachuku and Obafemi Awolowo (Nigeria)
- Dudley Thompson (Jamaica)
- Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya)

In the years immediately after the war, several colonies had achieved independence or were on the road to independence in north-east Africa—some peacefully, some not.
W.E.B. DUBOIS IN 1945
- Started a new pan-African nationalism that would spread throughout the continent.
- In 1960 the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 1514 that supported the end of colonization.
RESOLUTION 1514
AFRICA UNDER COLONIAL RULE
AFRICA UNDER COLONIAL RULE

- Africa under imperial rule
  - Harsh treatment of African peoples
  - Artificial borders
    - Divided cultural groups
    - United long-standing enemies

Africa’s Natural Resources:
- Majority of world’s diamonds
- Vast oil reserves
- 75% of world’s cobalt
- 25% of world’s copper
- 50% of world’s gold
- 33% of world’s manganese and uranium
FRENCH COLONIAL HOLDINGS
Immediately after World War II, France attempted to **reassert dominance** in colonies.

- Violation of Atlantic Charter?
- The French saw violent reactions to this tactic in Tunisia and Algeria.
Though limited, the French colonies were given representation in the French parliament in the Fourth French Republic in 1947.

Despite a slight increase of advantages, most nationalists still sought full independence.
Unlike other African colonies, Algeria was a settler’s colony with nearly one million French immigrants.

Clashes between white settlers and Africans would result in the death of thousands before independence was gained.
• 1945-1958 – French Union – organization of French colonial possessions
• 1956 – Morocco and Tunisia independent
• 1958-1960 – French Community succeeded French Union – ended in 1960 with most French colonial possessions independent
• 1962 – Algeria independent
• Circa 115,000,000 French speakers in Africa (2009)
WEST AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE
Interaction with Europeans date back to the 1400s.
West Africans had adopted many elements of Western civilization.
Early ties allowed more opportunities for education and modernization.
Nationalists in West Africa drew from their own history and western influences.
As a result, independence in West Africa was more “natural” (read: slightly less painful) for both the Africans and European powers.

Once Ghana (formerly the Gold Coast) became the first republic in West Africa, the movements in neighboring British and French colonies intensified.
SOUTHERN AFRICA
South Africa gained independence from Britain in 1910.
White minority dominated political and economic institutions.
Educated Africans began movements to gain power.
The African National Congress (ANC) tried to reason with the government. In 1960, after a riot, the government instituted strict measures to formally separate the races in a segregated system known as apartheid.
The colonies in central Africa were far less prepared for independence in the material sense.

- Colonial practices had severely restricted access to education, sanitary conditions, and public infrastructure.

- Educational opportunities had been severely limited for Africans— in the Belgium Congo, fewer than 120 Africans had a college education.
In 1956, Belgium had only a vague 30 year plan for Congo’s independence.

By 1960, the Belgians had turned control over to Patrice Lumumba. Twelve weeks later, the new leader of the Republic of the Congo was deposed in a coup, and executed by a firing squad.
Prime Minister Lumumba had hoped to reform the Congo and take advantage of its vast natural resources.

Two mineral rich provinces did not wish to be ruled by the republic and therefore declared their own independence.

When the U.N. and Western powers would not support the halting of the secessionists, Lumumba turned to the Soviet Union, which sent military equipment and advisors.

Fearing a communist takeover, the United States encouraged General Joseph Mobutu to take over.
Over the years, Mobutu would be rewarded by loans and payments from the West for his strong anti-communist rhetoric.

As a dictator, Mobutu also embezzled millions of dollars, stifled economic development, and oppressed his people.