Decolonization or Independence?

THE END OF EUROPEAN EMPIRES
Decolonization, 1943-1990

[Map showing the decolonization process with independent nations of the Third World, with date of independence标注。]
• In 1939, 33% of the world’s population lived under imperial or colonial rule...

• In 2000, less than .1% of the world’s population lives in dependent countries
Decolonization, 1943-1990

[Map of the world showing decolonization dates for various countries, with different colors for different regions and dates.]

Source: Glenn E. Hughes et al., *Practicing World History Skills*, Scott, Foresman & Co., 1984 (adapted)
OCT: overseas countries and territories.

a British OCTs include Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands.

b Danish OCT includes Greenland.

c Dutch OCTs include Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten.

d French OCTs include French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna.
EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) and Outermost Regions (OMR)

Madeira
Aruba
Croat

Outermost Regions of the EU
Overseas Countries and Territories
OCT Dependencies
Exclusive Economic Zone
Territorial claims in Antarctica

1) Arrangements for EU association are in practice not applied to Bermuda, in accordance with the wishes of its Government.
2) Argentina asserts a claim to sovereignty over South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands, and the Falkland Islands.
3) The Netherlands Antilles were dissolved October 10, 2010. The islands will remain OCTs at least until 2013.
Decolonization

• 3 explanations:
  – Nationalist
    • Indigenous uprisings set the pace for decolonization
  – Metropolitan (domestic)
    • Empire was becoming too burdensome and served no strategic or economic purpose for the mother country
    • Wasn’t worth expending men and money to preserve colonies that were seen as liabilities
    • European population wanted more of a domestic focus from their governments
  – International
    • the anti-colonial views of the new global powers (the Soviet Union and the United States) and global institutions (United Nations) after 1945 put pressure on European nations to accelerate the process of decolonization
• CrashCourse: Decolonization
  – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_sGTspaF4Y
THE BABY-HOLDER

"As if I hadn't got plenty of troubles of my own!"

PUNCH
MORE TROUBLES FOR JB

JOHN BULL: “This is what comes of undertaking to bring up other people's children.”
A TOUGHS AND DISAGREEABLE MORS EL TO SWALLOW.
AFRICA

INDEPENDENCE
Decolonization

• Why it happened?
  – Britain had granted independence to several white dominions in the 1920s and 1930s
    • Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the Irish Free State
  – Myth of white/European/Christian invincibility was shattered
    • Axis victories early in WWII
    • Japanese imperialism in East and SE Asia
  – World War II
    • severely impacted the economies of European countries after years of warfare
    • France and Britain, the imperial powers, were exhausted and weak, dependent on the US for financial generosity
    • Era of European domination had ended
    • more than 2 million Africans participated in the war
      – colonies saw the irony of fighting for the freedom and rights of people in Europe while they were denied these very same rights at home
Decolonization

• Why it happened?
  – Growth of nationalism
  – Emergence of anti-imperial powers (US and USSR)
  – Atlantic Charter (1941)
    • sovereign rights, self-determination and self-government were emphasised
  – Creation of the UN (1945)
    • Stood for self-determination, freedom, and democracy
The British Empire runs a world tyranny compounded of imperialism, colonialism and power politics which violates all political morals and in particular denies the elementary human rights of all peoples to be independent like the United States.

US President Roosevelt describing the British Empire in 1941.
Встает хозяин жизни новой —
Пора покончить с накалой!
Его девиз — два грозных слова:
Колонизаторов долой!

НАРОДЫ АФРИКИ ОБУЗАЮТ КОЛОННИЗАТОРОВ!
UN membership:
https://www.google.com/search?q=google+images&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0CAcQ_AUoAWoVChMI1NyAyovmxgIvQ5MNCh0EBQA2&biw=1366&bih=610#tbm=isch&q=United+nations+founded&imgc=xGWoC7B4o31-aM%3A
At the end of World War II, over 1/3 of the world's population lived in dependent territories.

As a result of decolonization, many countries became independent and joined the UN.
British Decolonization

• Planned decolonization
  – With Indirect Rule, they had invested in their colonies and trained local officials
    • The goal was self-determination
  – Met colonial opposition with reforms (reform in order to preserve)
  – negotiate a planned transition to a government that would be friendly to them through trade agreements and as allies
    • Handover of power to handpicked candidates from the educated elite
    • Nkrumah in Ghana, Nehru in India, and Kenyatta in Kenya
  – a means of strengthening British economic and international influence
    • “The object of British policy was to transition power on terms that would preserve a special link with the British imperial system and encourage commercial cooperation.”
      – John Springhall, *Decolonization Since 1945*
    • “Economic decolonization was a much slower process than the transfer of political power.”
  – Their close links with the US allowed them to view the changing world with optimism
African Independence?

"YOU ARE NOW FREE TO RUN AFRICA AS YOU SEE FIT"
List of countries that have gained independence from the United Kingdom

- Canada 1931
- U.S.A. 1776
- Jamaica 1962
- Belize 1981
- Antigua and Barbuda 1981
- Saint Kitts and Nevis 1983
- Saint Lucia 1979
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 1931
- Bahamas 1973
- Grenada 1974
- Dominica 1978
- Barbados 1931
- Trinidad and Tobago 1962
- Guyana 1966
- Sierra Leone 1961
- Ghana 1957
- Gambia 1965
- Nigeria 1960
- Zambia 1964
- Botswana 1966
- South Africa 1931
- Lesotho 1966
- Ireland 1922
- Malta 1964
- Cyprus 1961
- Jordan 1946
- Kuwait 1961
- Bahrain 1971
- Qatar 1971
- Pakistan 1947
- India 1947
- U.A.E. 1971
- Yemen 1967
- Kenya 1963
- Tanzania 1961
- Uganda 1962
- Malawi 1964
- Zimbabwe 1980
- Swaziland 1968
- Seychelles 1976
- Mauritius 1968
- Papua New Guinea 1975
- Malaysia 1957
- Brunei 1984
- Kiribati 1979
- Nauru 1957
- Solomon Islands 1978
- Tonga 1970
- Vanuatu 1980
- Fiji 1970
- Tuvalu 1978
- Australia 1931
- New Zealand 1931
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>1974</td>
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<td>1901</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>1975</td>
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<td>1907</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>1976</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>1978</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Dominica</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<td>1948</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
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<td>1957</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>St. Lucia</td>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Belize</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Belize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Fiji Islands</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Saint Kitts and Nevis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Namibia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Namibia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

British decolonization

- Planned decolonization
  - the British Commonwealth and dominion status could ease the transition to independence
    - Seen as a bridge for the transfer of power to colonial subjects
    - Seen as a “face saving” mechanism
Voluntary association of 54 independent countries that was formed in 1926
Diamond Jubilee: The Queen and the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent countries, almost all of which were formerly under British rule. The Queen is Head of State of 15 Commonwealth realms in addition to the UK. She is also Head of the Commonwealth itself.

Key
- Commonwealth realm
- Commonwealth member

GDP per capita (US S. 2011 est.)
- $22,100
- $30,900
- $23,600
- $8,300
- $40,300
- $13,300
- $9,000
- $40,800
- $27,900
- $2,500
- $16,400
- $12,900
- $11,700
- $3,300
- $3,400
- $35,900

The 54 Commonwealth members
1. Antigua and Barbuda (1981)
2. Australia (1901)
3. The Bahamas (1973)
4. Bangladesh (1972)
5. Barbados (1966)
9. Cameroon (1960)
10. Canada (1931)
11. Cyprus (1961)
12. Dominica (1978)
14. The Gambia (1965)
15. Ghana (1967)
17. Guyana (1966)
18. India (1947)
20. Kenya (1963)
22. Lesotho (1966)
23. Malawi (1964)
24. Malaysia (1957)
26. Malta (1964)
27. Mauritius (1968)
28. Mozambique (1965)
29. Papua New Guinea (1975)
30. Namibia (1990)
31. New Zealand (1931)
32. Nigeria (1960)
33. Pakistan (1947)
34. Papua New Guinea (1975)
35. Rwanda (2000)
37. St. Lucia (1979)
38. St. Vincent and the Grenadines (1979)
39. South Africa (1931)**
40. Sao Tome and Principe (1970)
41. Seychelles (1976)
42. Sierra Leone (1951)
43. Solomon Islands (1978)
44. South Africa (1931)**
45. Sri Lanka (1948)
46. Swaziland (1967)
47. Tanzania (1961)
49. Trinidad and Tobago (1962)
50. Tuvalu (1978)
51. United Kingdom (1991)
52. Uganda (1962)
54. Zambia (1964)

Sources:
- www.royal.gov.uk
- CIA World Factbook

(*) denotes a country that joined the Commonwealth during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II
• British Commonwealth:
  – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raNcqAzzHyc
  – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkypkxYQs5A
INDIA INDEPENDENT: BRITISH RULE ENDS

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TAKES OVER

MOUNTBATTEN'S APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR-GENERAL ENDORSED

COLOURFUL CEREMONY MARKS BIRTH OF NATION

NEW DELHI. Thursday.—At midnight tonight the Constituent Assembly, consisting of the chosen representatives of the Indian people, assumed sovereign power and the members solemnly took the pledge to serve India and all her people. "We end today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again," said Pandit Nehru in calling upon the members to take the new pledge.

Governors Sworn In
As Free India Is Born
British political cartoon, 1946
Jawaharlal Nehru and Gandhi in 1946
Independence Arch, Accra
British Decolonization

- But there were some British colonies that were seen as too important to give up
  - Malaysia
    - tin and rubber were a vital source of income
    - British were worried about the potential control of the country by communists (Malayan Communist Party)
    - “Malaya’s strategic position and its economic importance – it was the sterling area’s largest dollar-earner – meant that its surrender was unthinkable to the British government.”
      - British prime minister Clement Attlee
    - By 1970 65% of all foreign capital in Malaysia was still British
  - Suez Canal
    - More than 2/3 of the traffic through the Canal came from Britain’s merchant fleet
    - British had military bases throughout the Suez Canal area
      - Centerpiece of British military power in the Middle East
    - There was fear of Egypt’s President Gamal Abdel Nasser would nationalize the Suez Canal, which he did in 1956
British Decolonization

– Cyprus
  • The general headquarters for British land and air forces in the Middle East
  • For Britain, it was too important to surrender

– Kenya
  • Seen as important due to the existence of a large white-settler population (30,000 British citizens) capable of mobilizing political support at home
  • Strategic importance for the protection of British interests in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean
Kenya

- The Kikuyu, Kenya’s main ethnic group, were oppressed by the British
  - economically marginalized as years of white settler expansion ate away at their land holdings
  - In the post-war years, there was a mass expulsion of Kikuyu peasants from some of the best agricultural land in the country, set aside for the exclusive use of white farmers
  - In 1952, Kikuyu fighters began raiding white settler farms and destroying livestock
    - Known as the Mau Mau Uprising
    - their main aim was to remove British rule and European settlers from the country
    - one of the 20th century’s most sustained uprisings against white colonial rule
  - The British colonial authorities responded with outright repression and violence
Kenya

- The British colonial authorities responded with outright repression and violence
  - the British declared a State of Emergency and began moving army reinforcements into Kenya
    - It took 11 British infantry battalions, 21,000 police, air force bombing planes, and thousands of African auxiliary soldiers to contain it
    - Lasted from 1952-1960
  - over 25,000 rebels were killed
    - 160,000 were detained in concentration camps
      - In 2013, the UK decided to pay more than $30 million to surviving freedom fighters
      - only 32 white settlers were killed
- Uprising played a significant role in the British granting independence to Kenya in 1963
  - But they handed power over to the moderate nationalist Jomo Kenyatta who was willing to work with the British
In 2013, the UK decided to pay more than $30 million to settle claims that British troops tortured Kenyan freedom fighters in 1950s.

The payments will be paid to 5,228 victims.
Kenya - 1963

- Jomo Kenyatta
Britain still has 14 remaining colonies - or, as they are now called, "British overseas territories" (ex. Bermuda)
EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) and Outermost Regions (OMR)

Madeira
Aruba
Curaçao
Overseas Countries and Territories
OCT Dependencies
Indonesia
Exclusive Economic Zone
Territorial claims in Antarctica

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French, Portuguese, Dutch, and Belgian Decolonization

• With Direct Rule, they didn’t invest in their colonies
• No plan or preparation to terminate colonial rule
• Failed to develop anything like the British Commonwealth
• willing to do whatever it took to hold on to their colonies
• colonies were central to their economic existence and national pride
  – France had experienced 3 generations of defeat and the government was unwilling to give up their colonies
  – France feared the decline to a 2nd–power status
  – France saw its colonies as essential to its economic recovery
  – Dutch were convinced that their economy would not survive without the oil, rubber, sugar, tobacco, tea, and coffee from Indonesia
French, Portuguese, Dutch, and Belgian Decolonization

- Willing to go to war to maintain colonies
  - Dutch:
    - Indonesian War of Independence (in Indonesia) – 1945-49
  - France:
    - First Indochina War (in Vietnam) - 1946-54
    - Algerian War (in Algeria) – 1954-62
  - Portugal:
    - Portuguese Colonial War (in Angola and Mozambique) – 1961-1974

- Decolonization only came about as a result of a domestic uprisings
  - Collapse of the French Fourth Republic in 1958
  - 1974 military coup in Portugal
Indonesian War of Independence (in Indonesia) – 1945-49
Crowds in Jakarta celebrating in 1949
Figure 1
World map of the European overseas countries and territories, 2011

OCT: overseas countries and territories.

a British OCTs include Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands.

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Figure 2
Map of the European overseas countries and territories in the Caribbean region, 2011

OCT: overseas countries and territories.

a Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands.

b Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten.
French Empire
(extent from 1919 to 1939)
First Indochina War (in Vietnam) - 1946-54

- In 1945, after the end of the Japanese occupation, the Vietnamese declared their independence from France
  - Led by Ho Chi Minh and his Vietminh (Communist national liberation movement)
  - Indochina was the richest of France’s colonial possessions around the world
    - By 1954, French forces in Indochina totaled over 55,000
- France was defeated at Dien Bien Phu in 1954
  - Signaled the end of French colonial rule in Asia
  - Provided an inspiration to other anti-colonial fighters, especially in Algeria
  - Announced the end of white supremacy over the continent
• "We are very proud that Vietnam was the first colony that could stand up and gain independence on its own."
  
  – Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, general of the Vietnamese army
Algerian War (in Algeria) – 1954-62

- France occupied Algeria in the 1830s
- By 1945, there were 1.2 million Europeans (mostly French) living in Algeria
  - Surrounded by 9 million Muslim Arabs
- In 1954 fighting broke out in Algeria
  - Nationalists (the FLN – National Liberation Front) launched an armed revolt in Algeria for their independence
  - just months after the humiliating fall of Indochina
  - French honor became irretrievably committed to the preservation of French Algeria
    - By 1955, the French had 400,000 troops in Algeria
  - 8 years of brutal warfare followed
    - 500,000 Arabs were killed
    - 3,000 European civilians were killed
Fifth French Republic (1958- )

- The Fourth French Republic (1946-58) fell after the humiliating defeat of the French in Indochina and during the brutal Algerian War
  - Threat of a military coup in Paris
  - the first time a metropolitan gov’t had fallen on a colonial issue in Europe
- Charles de Gaulle took over as president of the Fifth French Republic in 1958
  - Supported by the military
  - Changed from a parliamentary gov’t to a presidential system
  - Favored decolonization to focus on domestic issues and the EU
  - “Africa costs us more than it benefits us. It is a fact that decolonization is in our own interest and therefore our policy.”
    - French President Charles de Gaulle, April 1961
  - Created the French Community in 1959
    - Similar to the British Commonwealth
    - Allowed colonies to vote on whether they would remain within the French Republic, or go its own way as an independent state
      - If a state voted to separate from France, it would forgo all French financial or military assistance
French Community in 1959
Fifth French Republic

• De Gaulle’s solution to the Algerian War was granting them their independence
  – Backed up by an overwhelming French majority voting in favor of De Gaulle’s plan
  – Algeria became independent in 1962
    • the two nations signed joint agreements for the exploitation of newly discovered Saharan oil
    • Led to the emigration of over 1.4 million people from Algeria to France (white settlers and loyalist Arabs)
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3) The Netherlands Antilles were dissolved October 10, 2010. The islands will remain OCTs at least until 2015.
French territories today
Portuguese Colonial War (in Angola and Mozambique) – 1961-1974

- Anti-colonial wars for independence
  - Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO)
    - Led by Eduardo Mondlane and then Samora Machel
  - Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)
    - Led by Agostinho Neto
- Portugal had 160,000 troops deployed in their African colonies
  - Placed increasing strains on the Portuguese economy
  - Between 1960-1971, military spending rose to 46% of the total gov’t expenditure
  - over 7,600 soldiers had died in the colonial wars
W. S. van der Waals

Portugal’s War in Angola
1961–1974

Al J. Venter

Portugal’s Guerrilla Wars in Africa
Lisbon’s Three Wars in Angola, Mozambique and Portuguese Guinea 1961–74
1974 military coup in Portugal

• Portugal was run as a military dictatorship by Gen. Antonio de Oliveira Salazar (1932-68)
  – One of the poorest countries in Europe
  – Colonial interests were central to its economic existence
  – Never intended to promote independence to African colonies

• In 1974, Gen. Salazar’s successor, Marcello Caetano, was overthrown
  – A bloodless coup that ended almost 50 years of right-wing dictatorship
  – Military was furious with Lisbon’s management of the anti-colonial struggle
  – Was a military coup led by middle-ranking army officers
    • Complained the army was being frustrated by the lack of any long-term strategy for Portugal’s African empire
    • Installed a military junta under Gen. Antonio de Spinola
      – Sought to negotiate peace in Africa and a transfer of power
      – Wanted a coalition gov’t and to avoid the colonies falling to communists
  – Ultimately democracy ensued in Portugal

• Mozambique and Angola both gained their independence in 1975
  – With the Portuguese withdrawal, brutal civil wars raged on in both nations for years and became Cold War battlegrounds
Carnation Revolution
(25th April 1974)
Decolonization, 1943-1990

[Map showing the decolonization process from 1943 to 1990, with countries marked by their date of independence, including regions like Africa, Asia, and the Americas.]
“Congratulations my little African friend! Colonialism is over! You now have your national independence... now sign here! here! and here!”
Colonizing a Continent

European rule in Africa and dates of independence

*After independence, South Africa continued to be ruled by a white minority until 1994.

**Formerly Rhodesia. It declared independence in 1965, but wasn't recognized until 1980.
**OCT**: overseas countries and territories.

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FIGURE 2
Map of the European overseas countries and territories in the Caribbean region, 2011

British OCTs
Dutch OCTs

Turks and Caicos Islands
Cayman Islands
British Virgin Islands
Anguilla
Sint Maarten
Saba
Sint Eustatius
Montserrat
Aruba
Curacao
Bonaire

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