

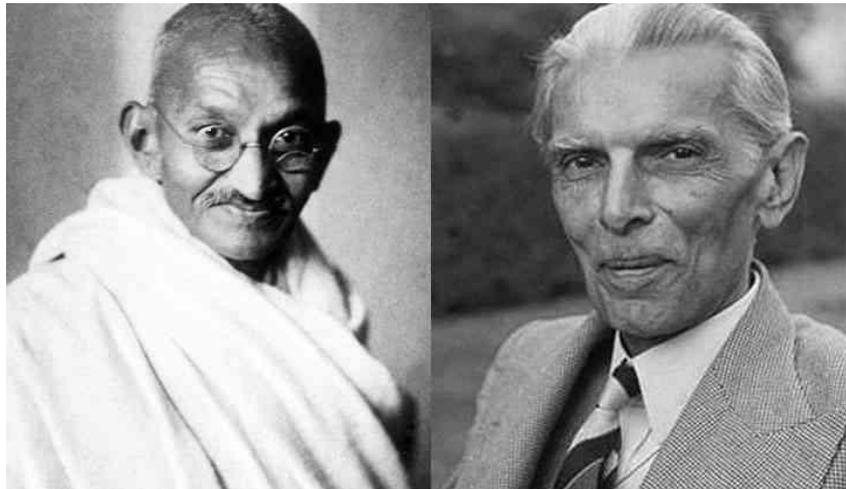
Decolonization after World War II

Once World War II ended, European Imperialism in India, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa took place. Many of the old, colonial powers were destroyed and bankrupt and could no longer hold on to their foreign territories. Others kept promises made earlier for support during the war. Several countries started revolutions against their colonial rulers with nationalism and democracy being the underlying causes.

India and Pakistan

India was the first major country to gain independence but it came at a cost. Since 1885, the Indian National Congress demanded freedom from Britain but the British government did not want to grant India sovereignty. In 1919, the Amritsar Massacre saw British violence against peaceful protestors. In the 1920's and 30's Mohandas Gandhi carried out his civil disobedience campaign. In 1947, the British finally granted independence to India but they still feared violence between Hindus and Muslims. The Muslim leaders in India, including Mohammed Ali Jinnah, told the British they wanted their own state.

The British granted this request and the Partition of India (1947) created two separate nations; India which was largely a Hindu nation and Pakistan which was largely a Muslim nation. Millions of Hindus and Muslims were relocated and many (approximately 2 million) were killed in the many riots that followed. The two nations are still disputing over territories today.



Mohandas Gandhi and Mohammed Ali Jinnah

Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia under Western Control since 1500	
Southeast Asian country	Western Imperialist
Philippines	Spain then America in 1898
Indonesia	Netherlands
Burma and Malaysian Peninsula	Great Britain
Indochina (Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam)	France

Only Thailand was able to keep its independence



During World War II, Japan had seized most of Southeast Asia from the European Imperialist powers. After the war, many Southeast Asians refused to accept European rule again. Nationalist leaders demanded freedom. Some countries achieved independence peacefully, others through violent warfare.

1953 – **Cambodia** gained a peaceful independence from France

1954 – **Vietnam** defeated France in a violent war. The Geneva Accords granted their freedom.

1954 – **Laos** fought the First Indochina War against France to obtain their independence.

Middle East and North Africa

After being on the losing side during World War I, many of the old Ottoman territories were divided into several new states. In 1920, **Kemal Atatürk** led the movement to create the independent Republic of Turkey. He was elected the first President (1923-1938).

Atatürk transformed Turkey into a modern Westernized, nonreligious nation. He abolished the old, Arabic script and introduced the Latin alphabet. He even replaced Arabic and Persian words with ancient Turkish words. Non-Turkish languages were banned. Women gained social freedoms such as no longer being forced to wear veils. They could now vote, run for office in the government and wear Western clothes.

Zionism and the Rise of Israel

The belief that the Jewish people were capable of developing their own nation and political institution is credited to **Theodore Herzl**. His organization, **Zionism**, called for a homeland that was presently under British rule. In 1917, the **Balfour Declaration** promised a Jewish homeland in Palestine. After World War II, the British limited Jewish emigration to Palestine fearing Arab uprisings. Fearing a civil war between Arabs and Jews, the British allowed the United Nations to vote on the decision.

The Jewish people were given Israel, the Palestinians were given the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In 1948, five Arab countries rejected the U.N. vote. The **Arab-Israeli War** broke out. Jordan seized the West Bank, Egypt seized the Gaza Strip and Israel took territorial areas from each of these territories.

In 1967, the **Six Day War** ended with a United Nations ceasefire. Israel had now taken the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria. The **Yom-Kippur War** in 1973 was a surprise attack by Arab forces but Israel repelled the invasion and kept control of the Sinai Peninsula. The Camp David Accords in 1978 saw an agreement between Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel to return the Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt.



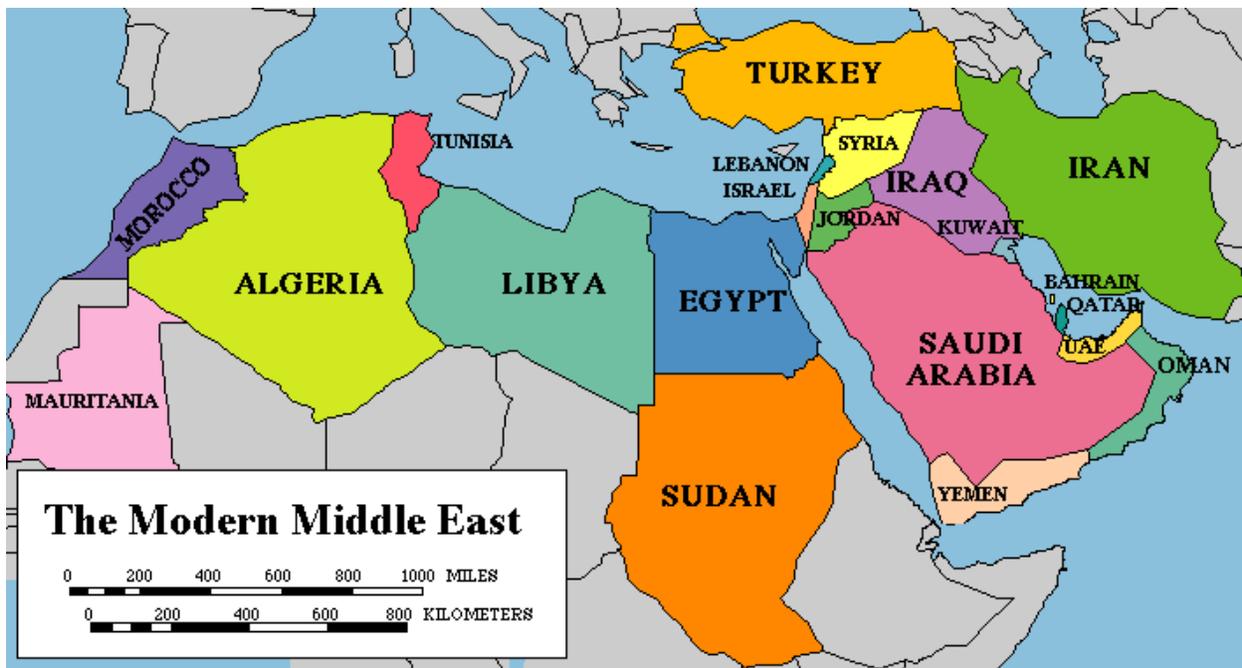
North Africa

The French granted peaceful independence to their two territories in the Middle East (**Lebanon** in 1943 and **Syria** in 1946) however their possession in North Africa saw extreme violence. In **Algeria** there were over one million French settlers who believed that one day Algeria would become a province of France. In 1954, African nationalists started an eight year struggle against French rule. France finally recognized Algeria as its own country and the French settlers fled the country.

Egypt along with **Saudi Arabia** were granted independence from Britain in 1922 but the British still kept troops in Egypt protect the Suez Canal. The king of Egypt ruled as a “puppet-king” of the British. In 1953, a military coup took place placing Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, an Arab nationalist, in control.

Libya was granted independence from **Italy** in 1951 and at first it was ruled by a monarchy. However, it would see a military coup in 1969 and the dictatorship led by **Muammar Gaddafi** that would remain in power until the Arab Spring uprising in 2011.

Both **Tunisia** and **Morocco** saw violent guerilla wars against the French. Both countries were granted independence in 1956. Morocco today is a democratic nation however Tunisia is still a one political party nation and in a time of turmoil.



Sub-Saharan Africa

In **Ghana** (formerly the **Gold Coast**), **Kwame Nkrumah** staged demonstrations and boycotts for freedom from the British. At first he was put in jail but then, when later released, he was the first black African nation to be granted independence. He changed the country's name to Ghana. However when Ghana cut ties with the British it created economic hardship as Great Britain was their most important trading partner.

Kenya

After World War II the British did nothing to allow independence for Kenya. The Kenyan nationalist leader, **Jomo Kenyatta** was put in prison for nine years. In 1952, a Kenyan tribal group, the **Mau Mau** launched a guerilla war against the British. Reluctantly Kenyatta was released from jail, freedom was granted and he became the first President of Kenya in 1964. Kenya still has close ties to Britain.

The Congo

Belgium feared the same type of uprisings the French witnessed in North Africa. In 1960 they hastily withdrew from the Belgian Congo.

Zimbabwe

Once known as **Rhodesia**, a white minority controlled government led by Ian Smith. After a long war that ended in 1980, independence and African majority rule was granted to the African political leader **Robert Mugabe**.

