AMCSO Chapter 29

Decolonization

1. Breakdown of Empires
2. Highpoint for colonization was WWI, with most of Africa, Asia and the Middle East under imperial control
3. WWI resulted in the breakup of both the Ottoman and Austria-Hungarian Empires
4. The interwar years, WWII and beyond brought many new nations into existence, often with great difficulty
5. Indian Independence
6. Mohandas Gandhi spent time in South Africa and felt that colonial powers needed to leave. He decided on civil disobedience and passive resistance as his strategies to effect change.
7. Example, 240-mile long salt march to protest British prohibition against making salt
8. Hindus and Muslims were united in their fight for independence, but split again before independence, with Muslims deciding they did not want to live in a Hindu dominated India, and asking instead, for a Muslim country, Pakistan
9. Creation of Pakistan 1947, partition into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan resulted in mass relocation of Muslims from India and Hindu from Pakistan to their respective countries, resulting in ½ million deaths; Gandhi was assassinated in 1948
10. Bangladesh – originally part of Pakistan but not geographically part of it, Bangladesh became its own country, w own language and territory, in 1971
11. Kashmir – distrust between India and Pakistan led to armed conflicts in the mountains of Kashmir
12. Politics – Zia was ousted by Bhutto in 1977. When Bhutto died in a plane crash, his daughter Benazir took over as the first female elected leader of a Muslim country, but she was exiled for corruption. She returned in 2007 and was killed by a suicide bomber, then her husband was elected Prime Minister
13. Emigration – large numbers of immigrants from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh have emigrated to London, where they live in “metropoles” which are concentrations within large cities of British Asians
14. GB developed managed migration, a policy designed to control entrance and focus on highly skilled and semi-skilled immigrants
15. Post-Colonial Struggles in Southeast Asia
16. French Indochina included Vietnam and Cambodia
17. Vietnam – Ho Chi Minh declared communist independence from France, but France fought until 1954.
18. Peace treaty split Vietnam at into north and south with eventual plans to unify.
19. South and the US opposed the communist North and war broke out, the south assisted by US troops
20. US withdrew in 1973, and the north won in 1975 establishing Socialist (communist) Republic of Vietnam.
21. By the 1980s Vietnam returned to free market economy and reestablished diplomatic relations with the US
22. Cambodia – earned freedom from France and Cambodian royal family ruled from 1953 until the 1970s when they are pulled into Vietnam conflict
23. Khmer Rouge guerilla organization under Pol Pot seizes control and impose Chinese style communism. Over 2 million intellectuals were killed in the “killing fields” of Cambodia
24. Vietnam took control of Cambodia from 1977-1989 when they withdrew and Cambodia had free elections monitored by the UN. Prince Sihanouk became constitutional monarch with a democratic government and a free market economy,
25. Decolonization in Former Ottoman Territory (after WWI breakup)
26. Zionism – Theodore Herzl, Hungarian Jewish journalist, started movement for a Jewish homeland after the Dreyfus affair in France in 1890s.
27. Birth of Israel – 1917, Great Britain issued the Balfour Declaration, favoring the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, where Jewish ancestors had lived.
28. British Officer T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) had promised the same to the Arabs in an effort to get Arabs to rise up against the Ottomans during WWI.
29. After WWI, GB was given mandate of former Ottoman lands and Jews began to immigrate, then after WWII Jews came in large numbers after the Holocaust
30. Local Arabs protested and the situation was turned over to the UN General Assembly, that decided to partition the area into a Jewish section (Israel) and an Arab section (Palestine)
31. Arab-Israeli conflict – Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq invaded newly formed Israel, but Israel won and 400,00 Palestinians became refugees
32. 1956 Israel invaded Sinai Peninsula to liberate Suez Canal, but were ordered by UN to withdraw
33. 1967 Six Day War, Israel fought Egypt, Jordan and Syria, gaining land in Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Golan Heights
34. After 30 years of conflict, President Carter mediated Camp David Accords, where peace between Begin of Israel and Sadat of Egypt made peace, but Arafat of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was opposed
35. Palestinians have split into Fatah (West Bank) and Hamas (Gaza), and Palestinians and Israelis continue to bomb civilian targets on both sides
36. Egypt – After WWI, GB protected Egypt and the Suez Canal, allowing more autonomy after 1936
37. After WWII, Egypt founds Arab League, and by 1952 General Nasser overthrew the king and established the Republic of Egypt;
38. Nasser promoted Pan-Arabism, and mixed Islamic and socialist ideologies nationalizing some industries, collectivizing some lands
39. Suez Crisis – Canal built in 1859-69 by Egyptian labor with French financing, with French lease for 100 years.
40. Nasser seized control of Canal and so Israel invaded on suggestion of Britain and France
41. Soviets and Americans got both the French and English out of Egypt, keeping Nassear in control
42. Neighbors not happy, but Egypt kept control of international waterway and Suez Crisis showed that the UN worked and that non-aligned nations could remain so.
43. Nasser’s Successors in Egypt – Anwar Sadat followed Nasser and took part in Camp David Accords, where Egypt recognized Israel and Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula; Sadat was assassinated
44. Mubarak succeeded Sadat and set up free market economy with economic aid from the US; Islamists, the military and supporters of democracy continue to have disputes in Egypt and the economy is not very developed, considering their oil reserves
45. Iran – GB and Soviets tried to control former Persian lands
46. Shah Reza Khan – 1921 Reza Khan seized power and named himself Shah. He seemed about to ally with Hitler when Russia and Britain forced him out of power and his son took over.
47. Shah Muhammad Reza – viewed as a US puppet; 1951 the parliament nationalized oil industry including British owned oil company. Reza had to flee temporarily, but was returned to power; he institute suffrage for women, created welfare system, modernized education; 1979 revolution kicked him out
48. Iranian Revolution – established a theocracy, where religion was the top power with Ayatollah Khomeini as Supreme Leader. A council ensured compliance with shariah and Iran became very anti-West.
49. Comparing Iran and Turkey – both are powerful non-Arab states in the Middle East.
50. Turkey established by Kemal after WWI in 1923. Both became republics in 1960. Both are Islam, with Turkey mostly Sunni and Iran mostly Shia. Both had close ties with the US in the 1960s
51. Treatment of Women – restrictions relaxed in 1960s, women gaining vote and right to education
52. In 1979 similarities end due to Iran Revolution and establishment of Islamic state. Turkey remains secular and democratic, and is part of NATO
53. Repressive Regime – Iran continues to be a repressive fundamentalist regime that is Anti-Israeli and anti-West. UN has sanction Iran for both human rights violations and nuclear weapons development
54. What Next for Turkey - If a fundamentalist candidate won an election, would the military take control because they are traditionally secular?
55. Turkey and the EU – accepted as an associate member in the EU in 1987; if made a permanent member it would be the only predominately Muslim country in the EU
56. Issues with Cyprus and Turkish Cypriots, along with Turkish attacks on Kurds on the border with Iraq may influence permanent membership in the EU
57. The PKK or Kurdistan Workers’ Party actively seeks its own Kurdish state unless Turkey provides for respect of political and cultural diversity
58. African Nationalism – Trends Following World War II - independence movements grew, using newspapers and radios to encourage nationalism; communist leaders condemned imperialism and proposed state-run economies; mostly African nations that adopted communism retained some elements of capitalism
59. Ghana – former British Gold Coast gained independence first in 1957 by negotiations led by the UN; first president established a republic in 1960; instituted public work projects; eventually claimed dictatorial powers and was corrupt; proponent of Pan-Africanism
60. Pan-Africanism became a term after creation of Liberia; celebration of African unity and ideas, but also move to kick out Europeans; Ghana returned to peace in 2000 after a civilian followed another civilian elected president
61. Africa Union (AU) – includes 53 nations; division between nationalists versus overarching African union
62. Algeria – Algeria was formerly French; War for Independence began in 1954; National Liberation Front (FLN) guerilla group led move to kick out the French; French communist party favored independence; French President DeGaulle bypassed the French National Assembly and by referendum from the people gained Algerian independence; government faced armed conflict from FLN, many French returned to France, and many Algerians died
63. 1991 Algerian civil war where FLN continued to fight; military state of emergency finally lifted in 2011
64. Comparing Ghana and Algeria: military one party rule plagued both; Ghana was able to transition to democracy more easily than Algeria
65. Kenya – eastern coast, many Asians formed a professional class; GB was colonial power
66. Local Mau Mau group protested British presence, and GB gave up power in 1963; Jomo Kenyatta elected president
67. Many tribes, plus Asians (Indians), caused conflict due to their better social and economic status; civil unrest continues, with coalition governments trying to control attacks on Asians and Indians
68. Angola - three separate tribes lived in Portuguese Angola, and when the Portuguese withdrew in 1975, a 27 year civil war broke out amongst the tribes, all wanting to control the rich diamond mines
69. Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) Mbundu tribe, USSR and Cuba
70. National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) Ovimbundu tribe, South African support
71. National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FLNA) Bankongo tribe, US
72. Nigeria – former British colony, west coast, largest population; independence from GB in 1960; Biafran Civil War started in 1967 when a northern tribe tried to secede, but failed.
73. After the civil war ended, military governments were in control until 1999 election of Obasanjo
74. Christian and Islamic groups continue to fight in the northern states; 11 Nigerian states voted for both secular AND shariah law
75. Local tribes complain that oil reserves has been extracted without returning wealth to region and with great damage to lands and rivers
76. Modern Mexican Culture and Politics
77. 1917 revolution resulted in rise of PRI, which has ruled with the same constitution as in 1917
78. Student Uprisings – in 1968, after an incident at a soccer match, riot police killed student protestors, leading to widespread student protests and 40 more deaths. Some accounts blame the “communist” students, others blame the police.
79. PRI in power until 2000 election of Vicente Fox; PRI nationalized Mexican oil industry in 1938, forming PEMEX
80. Cultural and economic trends
81. Oil, tourism, and no foreign ownership of land have still not ended poverty
82. Large scale immigration to the US continues, legal and illegal
83. NAFTA led to *maquiladores*, factories that use low wage Mexican workers to produce tariff-free goods for export
84. Fluctuating oil prices and 2007-2010 global recession affected Mexican economy
85. Most Mexicans are Roman Catholic, but the church has no special standing with the government
86. Drug cartels – drug trafficking, kidnapping, etc… challenged Mexican governmental stability; many of the weapons come from the US, and the demand for drugs is from the US
87. Other Political Trends in Latin America
88. Many Latin American governments run industries, either because of shortage of capital in country or desire to keep foreign investors out
89. Some countries are now successfully servicing their foreign debt
90. Some military dictatorships have committed human rights violations, such as Pinochet in Chile
91. Many countries have attempted land redistribution, such as Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, and Venezuela
92. Liberation theology developed in response to land redistribution. Liberation theology seeks to free people from abuses of economic, political and social abuses
93. In Africa, East Asia, and Latin America, there are long-term trends towards democracy and free market principles with governments strongly promoting economic growth.