

CHAPTER 35-NATIONALISM AND POLITICAL IDENTITIES IN ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA.

After World War I, countries in Asia—especially India, China, and Japan—struggled for a national identity. Indian nationalists sought to be free from British rule. The major force in this movement was Mohandas Gandhi, a wealthy Hindu who had been trained as a lawyer in Great Britain. He adopted the tactic of passive resistance and led major anti-British movements. In 1911, revolution led to the control of local warlords in China. As in India, nationalism became a major force with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) led by Mao Zedong and the Nationalist Party (the *Goumindang*) led by Sun Yat-sen. The two parties allied against outside forces but the death of Sun Yat-sen in 1925 led to a civil war between the two groups with no clear winner. Japan came out of World War I as a major world power, having been on the side of the Allies and having her economy boosted by munitions sales during the war. The Great Depression hit the Japanese economy hard and led to unrest and a call for reform. The nationalists came to power and began a quest for dominance in Asia by attacking China. When the League of Nations, of which Japan was a member, called for Japan's withdrawal from China, Japan quit the League.

In Africa, many of the colonial powers were fighting in World War I. Although there was no combat in Africa, nearly every colony took, or was forced to take, sides. The Allies targeted Germany's colonies and although they would eventually defeat them, the German resistance forced the Allies to use troops in Africa that could have otherwise been useful on the Western Front. The Allies were also forced to keep troops in Africa to quell rebellions in their colonies caused by anti-European and anti-Christian feelings, as well as anger over the conscription of Africans into the military.

After the war, the role of the colonial powers caused Africa to change greatly. First, the colonial powers mandated that the cost of colonial administration should be borne by the colonies. Second, the colonial economies were focused on exports. This policy led to destruction of the native economies, and caused the colonies to suffer more during the Great Depression. The main enterprises of Africa were farming and mining, while the natives were exploited and the Europeans made the profit. These conditions brought about African nationalism, started by the African intellectuals, many of whom were educated in Europe. African nationalists embraced the European concept of nation-states, but often disagreed as to how they should be formed.

The history of Latin America after World War I was one of free nations still under the economic control of the United States and European nations. The war and the following depression led to a change in political ideas with Marxism as one of the dominant trends there. In many countries Marxist or socialist ideas became increasingly popular. Another trend in the region was "economic imperialism," which was a takeover of a country's economy but not the government. This was a form of neocolonialism often practiced by the United States. Although the United States had, at times, sent troops into Latin America it came to rely more and more

on “dollar diplomacy” or the control of the economy. In the 1920s and 1930s, the United States continued to control these economies using the services of corporations rather than direct government intervention. United States support of certain governments for financial reasons was sometimes disastrous.

Key Concept 6.2 Global Conflicts and Their Consequences

- I. Europe dominated the global political order at the beginning of the 20th century, but both land-based and transoceanic empires gave way to new forms of transregional political organization by the century’s end.
- II. Emerging ideologies of anti-imperialism contributed to the dissolution of empires.