

CHAPTER 37-THE END OF EMPIRE

When World War II ended, the British considered granting India independence, but this led to religious problems within the nation. The Muslims demand for a separate country grew, fearing domination by the Hindus. Gandhi condemned this plan, but in 1947 independent India was divided into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan. As ten million refugees moved from one country to the other, one million died. The stable democracy of India, although marked by the assassinations of two prime ministers, is an exception in Asia.

Nationalist movements also occurred in other countries in Asia, including Vietnam. The invasion of Vietnam by Japan ended the French occupation but with the war's end, the French attempted to reassert control. Fought by Ho Chi Minh and his followers, and aided by Communist China, the French were defeated in 1954. The Geneva Conference in 1954 split Vietnam in two. The Soviet Union and China supported the communist government of Ho Chi Minh in the north and the United States supported the government in the south. This led to a prolonged struggle, which ended with the north victorious in 1973.

In the Middle East, nationalism was also an issue. Conflict increased between the independent Arab states created after 1920, and the increasing number of Jewish settlers who arrived in the 1920s and 1930s. After the end of WWII, large numbers of Jews fled Europe for Palestine and the problems increased. The British mandate in Palestine could not solve the problems between the two groups and turned the issue over to the United Nations. The area was divided into Palestine and Israel. When the British withdrew in 1947, civil war broke out between the two sides and the Jews proclaimed Israel a nation. In Egypt, an Egyptian nationalist, Nassar, came to power and seized control of the vital Suez Canal to help build up his nation's economy. This led to conflict between Egypt and Great Britain, France, and Israel.

In the Middle East, many of the problems continued to revolve around religion. The continuing conflict between Israel and her neighbors, with wars in both 1967 and 1973, and the rise of Islamic revivalism - the idea that religious values should provide a base for political decisions - add to the unrest in the area.

In Africa, the French were forced out of Algeria in a violent war that ran from 1954 to 1962. This war was perhaps the most violent example of the fight for African nationalism. In sub-Saharan Africa, more and more states gained independence, some violently like the Mau-Mau uprising in Kenya, and others not so, like in Ghana.

After the European powers withdrew from Africa, it still suffered from the aftermath of colonialism, with many unstable governments. In South Africa, the continuation of apartheid, the legal separation of the races, continued until 1994 with the election of Nelson Mandela as the first black president. Most of sub-Saharan Africa continues to lag behind the world in industrial output.

Starting in 1958, Mao Zedong attempted to modernize China with programs that would turn out badly. The Great Leap Forward (1958-1961), an attempt to increase industry and agriculture, ended with no great change in industrial production and resulted in mass famine. The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), an

attempt to make China even more communistic, ended with thousands of deaths and a major setback for Chinese education. After Mao's death in 1976, Deng Xiaoping opened China to the west and instituted market reforms.

The end of imperialism in Latin America led to many issues. The region remained unstable long after imperial withdrawal. The region was plagued by unstable governments such as the military governments of Peron in Argentina and Armas in Guatemala.

Key Concept 6.2 Global Conflicts and Their Consequences

- II. Emerging ideologies of anti-imperialism contributed to the dissolution of empires.
- III. Political changes were accompanied by major demographic and social consequences.