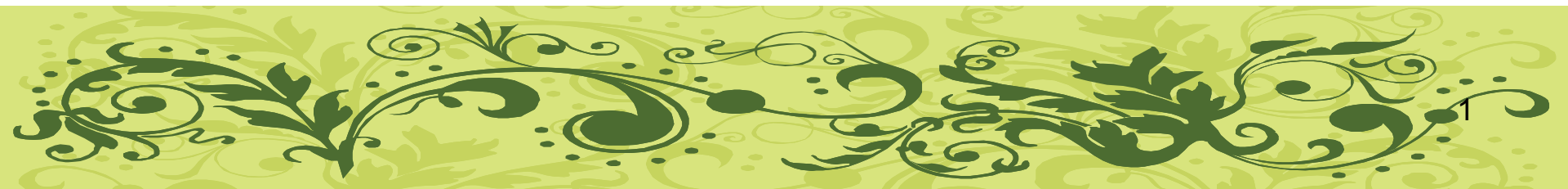# Africa: Historical Understandings SS7H1

The student will analyze continuity and change in Africa leading to the 21st century.

a. Explain how European partitioning across Africa contributed to conflict, civil war, and artificial political boundaries.

Europe first became interested in Africa while they were engaged in the **trans-Atlantic slave trade**. This trade lasted from the 1500s until the middle 1800s. The major European countries had ended the slave trade by the early 1800s.
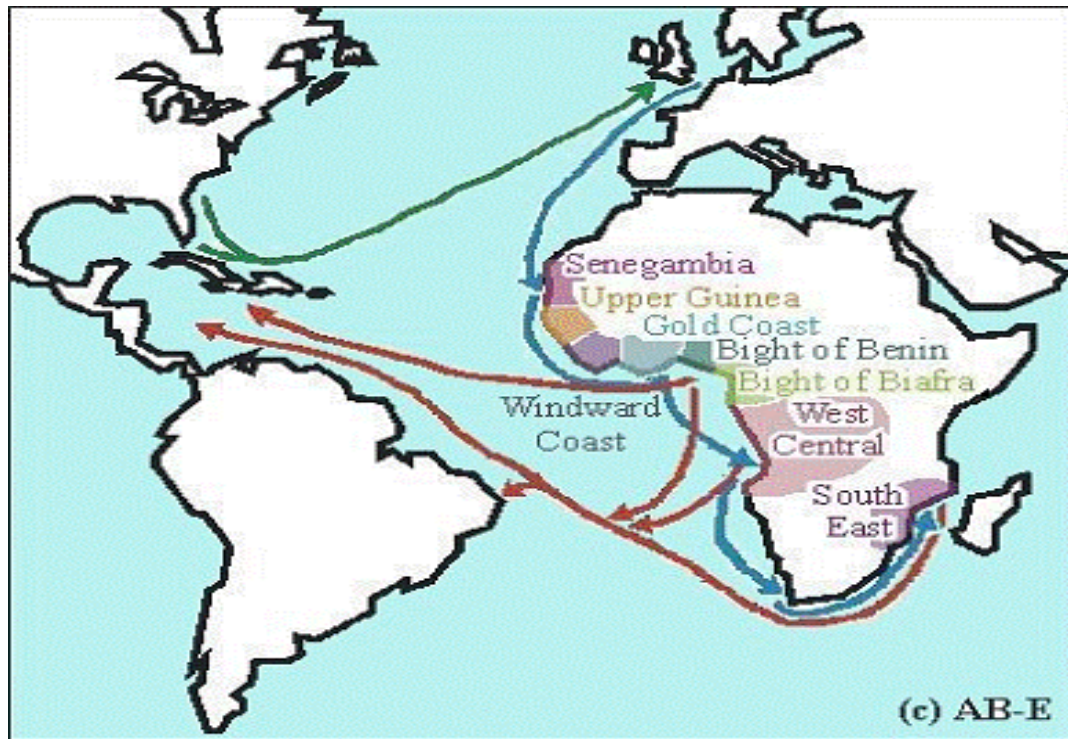

Image Above: Transatlantic slave trade route (the trade triangle) which generally followed a triangular route. Colonists in the Americas also made direct African slaving voyages which did not follow the triangular route.

The United States followed by ending the slave trade in 1808, though ownership of slaves already living in the U.S. was allowed. Still, the trade in human beings continued as long as countries had a demand for their labor.

TO BE SOLD on board the Ship *Bance-Ifland*, on tuefday the 6th of *May* next, at *Afhley-Ferry*; a choice cargo of about 250 fine healthy

NEGROES,

juft arrived from the Windward & Rice Coaft. —The utmoft care has already been taken, and fhall be continued, to keep them free from the leaft danger of being infected with the SMALL-POX, no boat having been on board, and all other communication with people from *Charles-Town* prevented.

Auftin, Laurens, & Appleby.

N. B. Full one Half of the above Negroes have had the SMALL-POX in their own Country.

Even though the slave trade ended, interest in the wealth of the African continent did not. Europeans stayed close to the coast during the years of the slave trade, though the Dutch and later the British controlled
parts of southern Africa.

Competition for power drove Europeans to move into the African continent in the 1800s looking for **colonies** and **raw materials**. Belgians took control of the Congo. Britain, France, and Germany fought over control of the Sudan and Egypt.
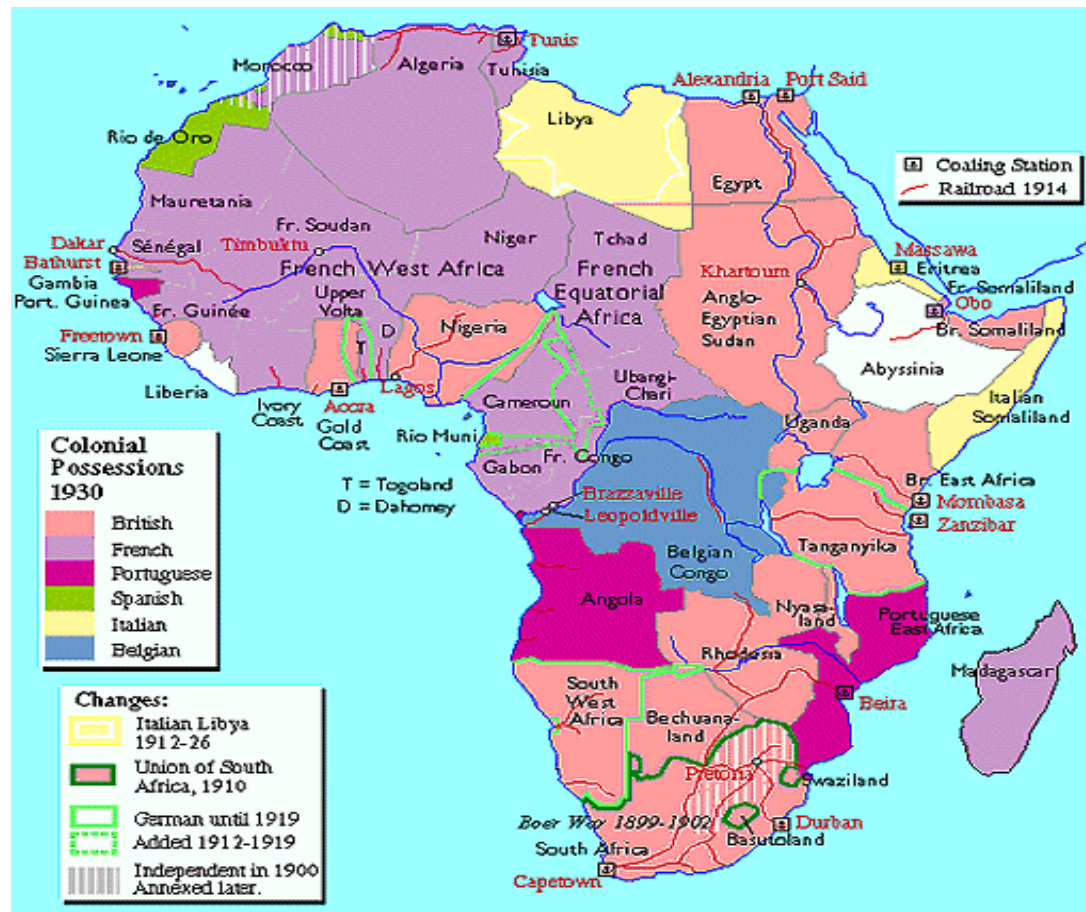
The Zulu nation fought the British in South Africa. The Fulani resisted French control in what is now Nigeria; the Ashanti struggled to hold on to what would become Ghana. Because of superior technology and more advanced weapons, the Europeans usually came out the winners.
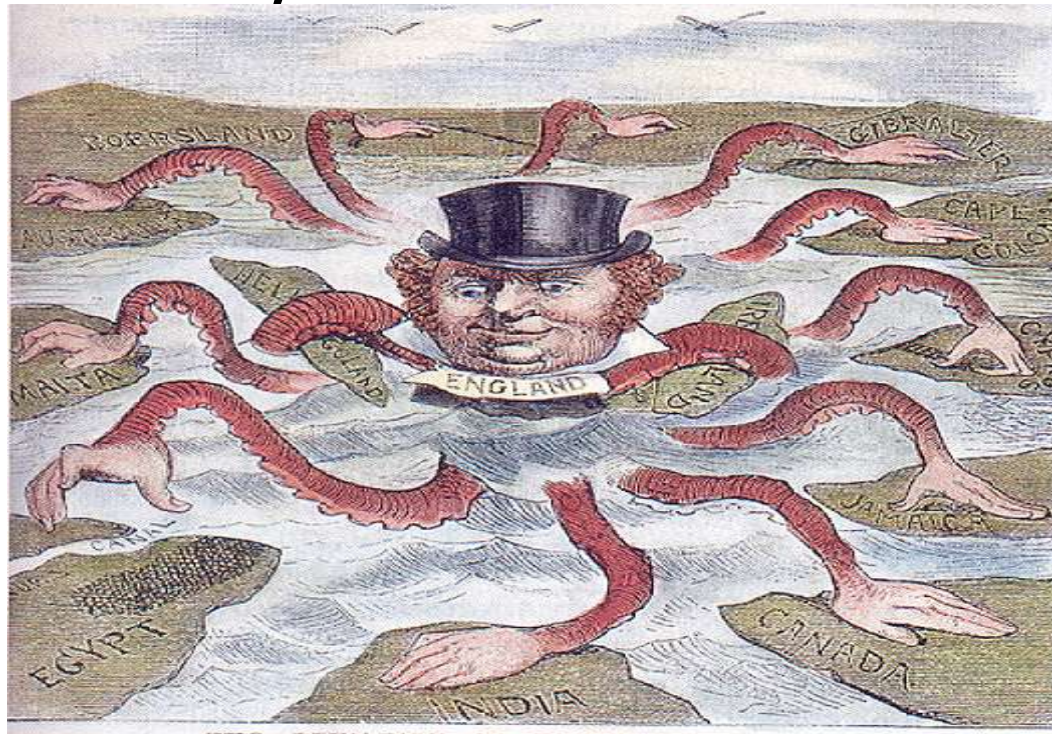
Above is an example of an old political cartoon about England's involvement in colonialism and imperialism around the world.

Europeans in the 19th century saw colonies as a measure of national power and a key part of the system known as **imperialism**. A strong country was supposed to have colonies to provide raw materials and markets to increase its wealth and importance in the world.

Above image: King Leopold II of Belgium depicted as a rubbery snake in the Congo Punch Cartoon

Some European countries like Great Britain, wanted to control areas of Africa to protect transportation routes to British Empire territories in India and Asia. Egypt was on the Suez Canal. Cape Colony overlooked the southern tip of Africa, protecting the sea route around the continent.

Besides important transportation routes, Africa was also rich in **natural resources**. Gold, platinum, and diamonds were discovered in South Africa. Iron ore, coal, and eventually the element uranium were found in other areas. Congo produced rubber, a key part of industrial production in Europe.

Above images: The Rubber tree got its name from the sap-like extract it produces that we know as rubber sap or natural latex.

Another key factor was the work of **Christian missionaries**. They saw European colonialism of Africa as a way to bring Christianity to a "heathen, " or uncivilized" land. Their work gave the colonizers another excuse to do whatever they wanted to do in Africa
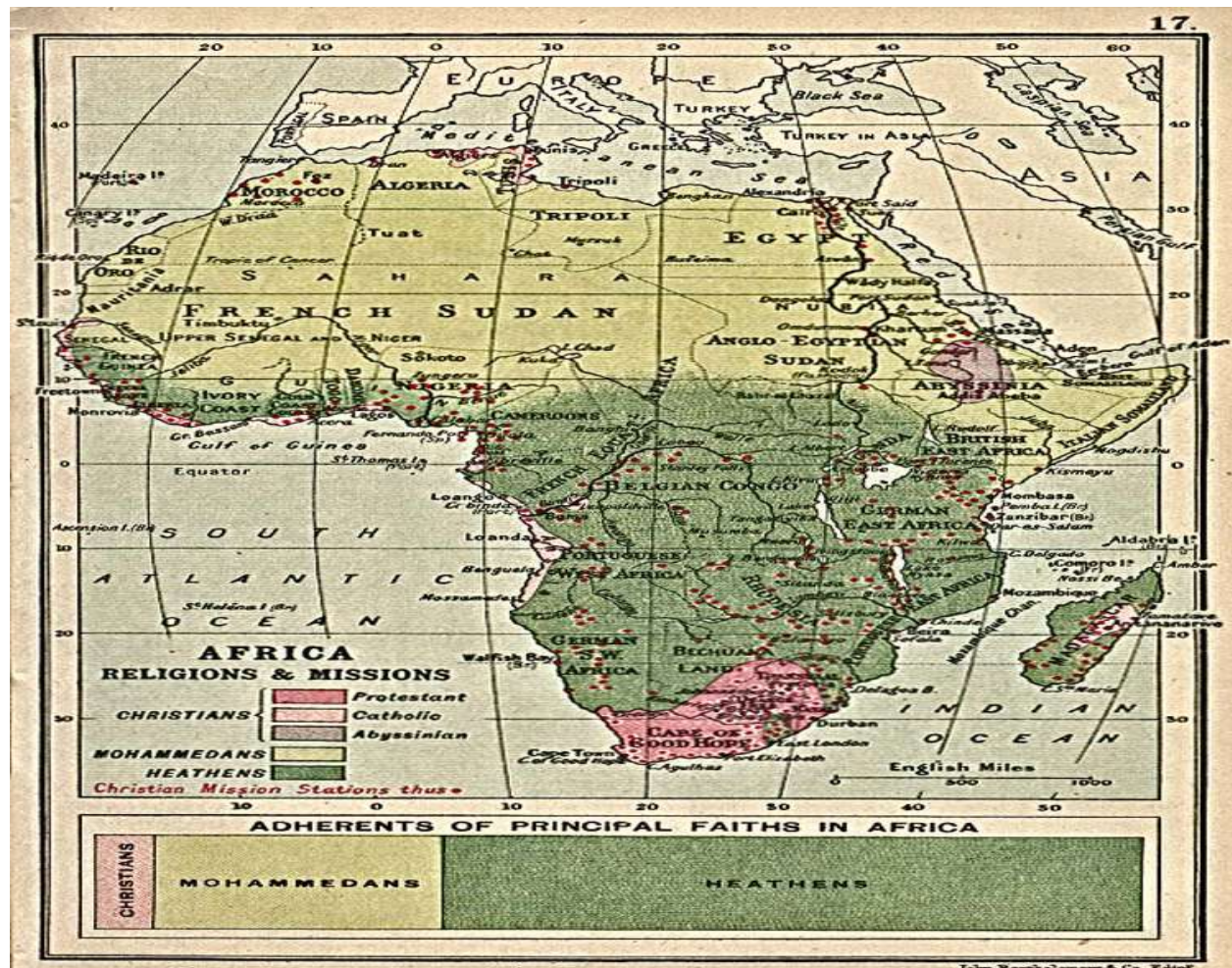
Some European powers allowed large companies to come into areas of Africa they controlled, organizing the African population in whatever ways would guarantee the most efficient work force. Others set up colonial governments.

Above image: Africans working in a sugar mill in Surinam, 1839.

They forced the African population into going along with colonial demands for work using natural resources. African colonies were divided into administrative districts and put under the power of European officials. These administrators were expected to keep the peace, get the work done, and help "civilize" the African people.

Nearly all Europeans working in Africa felt the local people were backwards and in need of Europe's civilizing influence. Most knew nothing of the great cultures that were a part of Africa's past.

The above image is of the great leader of Mali, Mansa Musa, who was king in the 1300s, shown here in a medieval manuscript

LIFE AS PART OF A COLONY

Some European powers like the British used **indirect rule**. They appointed local chiefs to be their enforcers, to collect taxes, run the businesses the British wanted, and put down any trouble that began to emerge. Africans were lured into jobs with promises of wealth, power, and influence.

The map above shows British rule in Africa from the Cape to Cairo.

The French forced those they had conquered to give up their own customs, and adopt French ways and to **assimilate**, or completely absorb, French culture. Many people in African colonies controlled by France began speaking French and several applied for and were granted French citizenship.

AFTER WORLD WAR II

Though they worked to keep order in their African colonies, European powers did little to improve the lives of Africans themselves, unless doing so would increase profits. This neglect remained largely the rule until after World War II.

Above left: pineapple plantation; **right:** cocoa plantation in Cote d'Ivoire

By the 1950s, however, change was in the air. Many Africans were openly opposed to continued European control of their countries. They realized that colonialism was not equality for all. The European powers had more rights and more comfortable lives than their African subjects.

The above image is of revolutionary Samora Machel who led Mozambicans to freedom

The European colonies were taking advantage of African land and labor, and they saw the African people as "second-class citizens," or inferior. World Wars I and II opened Africa to the rest of the world. Africans had fought on the side of the Europeans , and they now began to demand freedom for themselves.

World War II in
COLONIAL AFRICA

The Death Knell of Colonialism
Richard E. Osborne
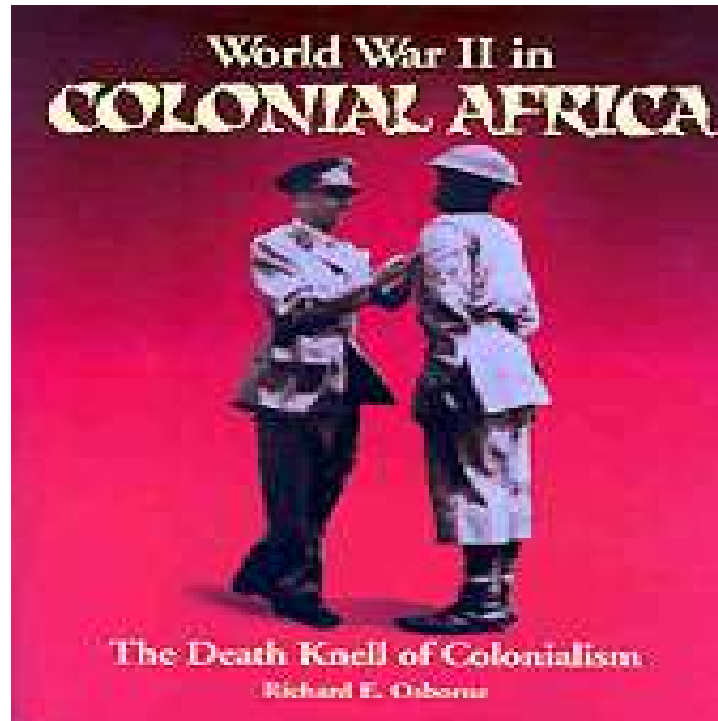
Slowly the European powers began to liberate their African colonies. By 1960, there were 27 independent African countries. By 1975, over 47 were independent.
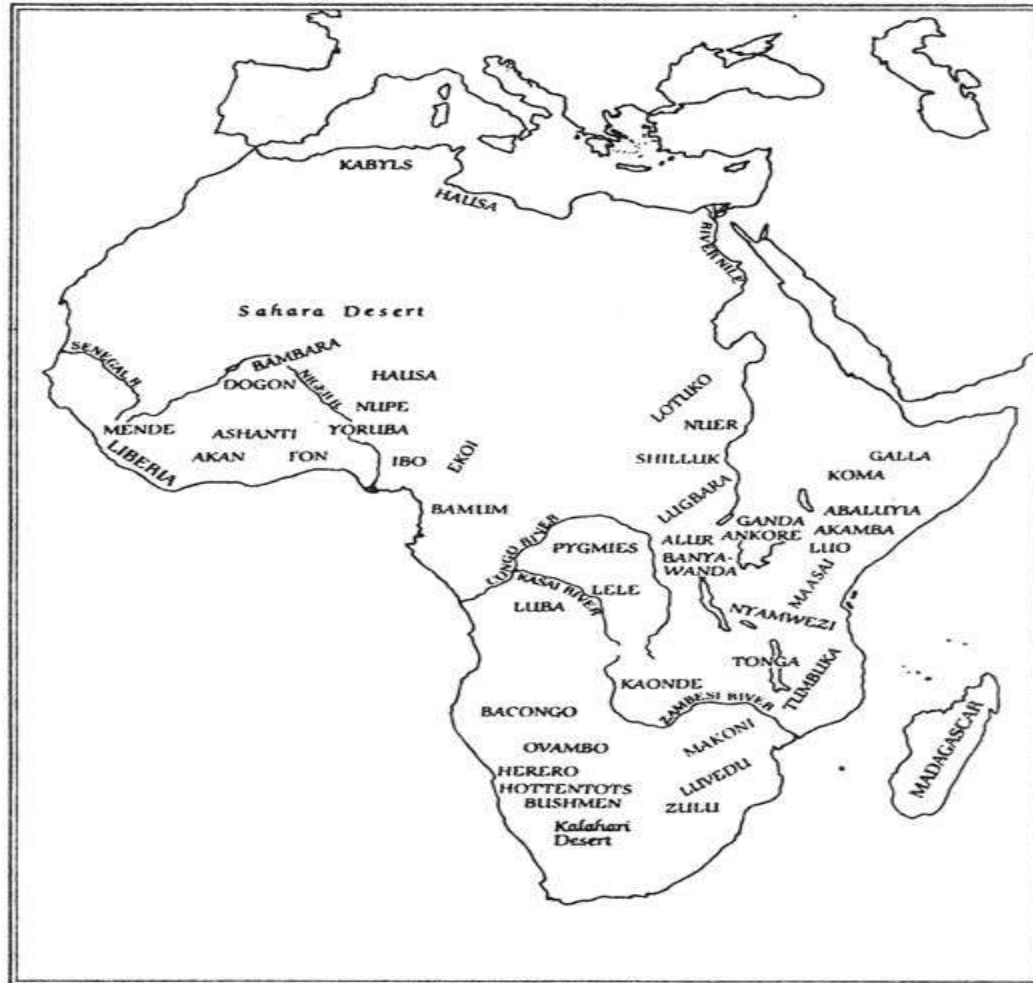

The above map shows the years each country in Africa was granted independence. Liberia and Ethiopia were never under colonial rule.

Even so, independence came at a high cost. When European countries established their African colonies, they paid little attention to the traditional loyalties and kinship groups of the people they were ruling. Boundaries between colonies were decided according to colonial practice rather than what made sense in terms of the different groups who lived in the areas being divided.

The image above is of a Hutu, Tutsi and a Twa, tribes who may have been affected by colonial partitioning.

These new boundaries often followed old colonial boundaries, with little concern for the ethnic and religious groups that live there.

KABYLS
HAUSA

Sahara Desert

SENEGAL R.
BAMBARA
DOGON
NIGER R.
HAUSA
NUPE
MENDE
ASHANTI
YORUBA
LIBERIA
AKAN
FON
IBO
EKOI
BAMUM

LOTUKO
NUER
SHILLUK
GALLA
KOMA

CONGO RIVER
PYGMIES
KASAI RIVER
LELE
LUBA

LUGBARA
ALUR
GANDA
ANKORE
BANYA-
WANDA
ABALUYIA
AKAMBA
LUO
MAASAI
NTAMWEZI

TONGA
KAONDE
ZAMBESI RIVER
TUMBUKA
BACONGO
OVAMBO
HERERO
HOTTENTOTS
BUSHMEN
MAKONI
LUVEDU
ZULU
Kalahari
Desert

MADAGASCAR

The image above shows where many African tribes lived before colonial partitioning.

SS7H1
The student will analyze continuity and change in Africa leading to the 21st century.
b. Explain how nationalism led to independence in South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria.

SOUTH AFRICA

The colony of **South Africa** was founded in the mid-1600s by the Dutch from the Netherlands who used the colony for trade around the tip of the Africa continent. Many Dutch settlers came there, and they were eventually called the **Boers**.


The above photographs show some Boer soldiers during the Boer War fought between 1899-1902 in which Dutch settlers fought Great Britain

The Dutch settlers had little to do with the native Africans, other than to consider them as servants or working people.

When the British took over the colony in the early 1800s, many of the descendants of the Dutch settlers moved north into land occupied by the native Zulus. This move led to warfare with the Zulus, a tribe that later fought the British as well.
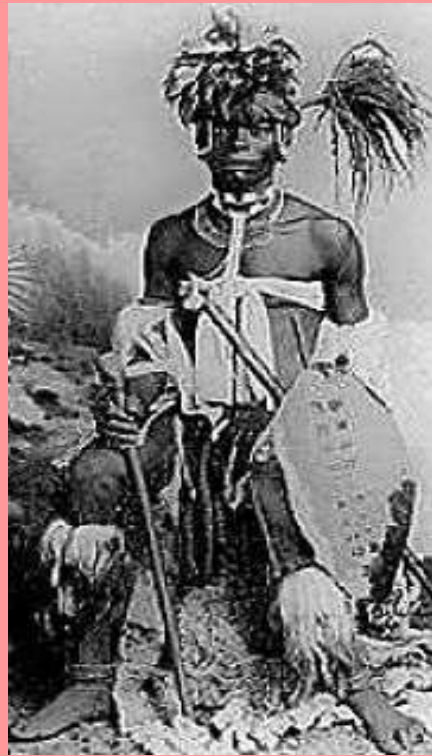
The photos on the left and right are modern-days Zulus. The middle photo is of King Shaka Zulu who ruled circa 1787 to September 1828[25].

The Dutch descendants set up two states in South Africa, Transvaal and Orange Free State. In the early 1900s, these states were eventually merged with British South Africa to form the **Union of South Africa**, a state that by this time had discovered vast deposits of gold and diamonds. Because native Africans were considered second-class citizens in the Union of South Africa, they formed the **African National Congress (ANC)** to work for equal treatment of the nonwhite population.

South Africa set up a strict system of separation of the races, the **apartheid system**. The **African National Congress** worked for many years to end this system, eventually getting the international community to help by imposing **embargoes** on the Union of South Africa.

An **embargo** meant that countries refused to trade with South Africa until they changed their discriminatory policies. By 1985, pressure from the embargo and continuing resistance led by the **African National Congress** and the Pan-African Congress forced the South African government to begin making changes.

Apartheid began to come apart, and in 1994 South Africa held its first multiracial elections and chose **Nelson Mandela** as the country's first black president.

KENYA

Kenya became independent of British rule in 1964, under the leadership of **Joseph Kenyatta**, a leader of the **Kenyan African National Union (KNAU)**. While Kenya was glad to be free of British rule, the government of Joseph Kenyatta was not open or free.

Above: Joseph Kenyatta, served as Kenya's first prime minister, 1963-1964, and its first president, 1964-1978

Under Kenyatta and his successor, **Daniel arap Moi**, the **KNAU** ran almost unopposed in every national election until the 1990s. At that time, the international community told Moi that unless Kenya improved their civil rights record, economic assistance from abroad would be cut off.

Daniel arap Moi, President of Kenya (1978-2002)

There has been some improvement in the political rights of Kenya's people, but more is needed. Some argue that a western-style democracy does not fit Kenya's past or traditions. The country remains a multi-party state on the books, but the reality is that the KNAU still controls much of the government.

Uhuru Kenyatta, the party chairman of the KNAU

NIGERIA

Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960, and most people expected the new state to be stable and calm. Within a few months, however, war broke out between the Christian south and the Muslim north. The religious war left many thousands dead or injured. The country tried to reorganize as 12 different regions, even the oil-rich province in the eastern part of the country declared itself to be the Independent State of Biafra.

33

Image above: Abubakar Tafawas Balewa who was made prime minister in 1960

Military coups, which are the sudden overthrow of an existing government, and outbreaks of violence marked the years that followed. Elections were held in 1999 that seemed more free and open than those in the past, but the government still remains unstable. As of 2007, violence still marred Nigerian elections.

Above photos: Nigerian women waiting to vote.

Nigeria has the potential to have great wealth from their oil supplies. However, because of corruption in the government, this resource has not been developed. As a result, Nigeria must rely on foreign aid and foreign supplies for their people.

In Nigeria, **above left**: oil rig engineers; **middle**: oil refinery; **right**: oil pipeline

SS7H1

The student will analyze continuity and change in Africa leading to the 21st century.

c. Explain the creation and end of apartheid and the roles of Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk

Apartheid means the legal separation of the races. Apartheid was the law of the **Union of South Africa** from the earliest creation of the state in 1948. The country had a complicated system of racial identification, classifying citizens as either black, colored, Asian, or white.
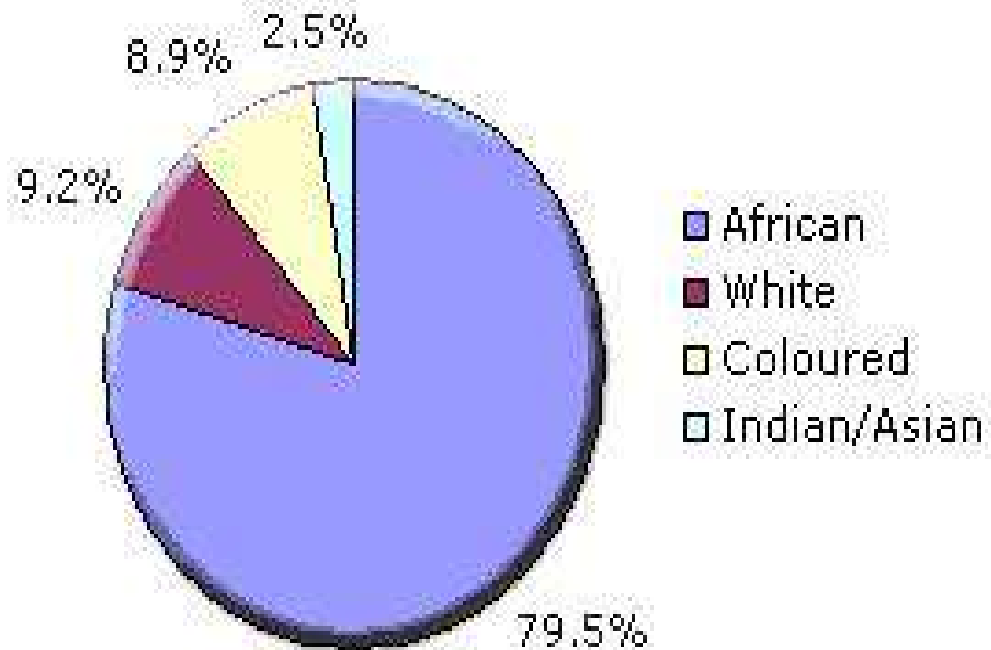
Above: South Africa's population

Blacks were allowed to own very little land, even though they made up over 70% of the population. All sorts of public facilities were **segregated**, including schools, libraries, movie theaters, restaurants, and even beaches. People were not allowed to marry anyone who was of a different race. The **apartheid system** lasted until well into the 1980s, with the white minority population making all the laws for the nonwhite majority.

Above: apartheid-era signs

Throughout these years, two groups were working to end this South African regime, the **African National Congress** led by **Nelson Mandela**, and the **Pan-African Congress**. Many countries around the world were critical of South Africa for its discriminatory government. Some refused to do business with South Africa.

Above: members of the African National Congress

Riots and fighting took place constantly, and **Nelson Mandela** was sentenced to life in prison for his work against the regime.

The repressive measures did not slow down the protests, however. Eventually the South African government had to admit that their policy of apartheid had no place in a modern world.

This image was taken during riots in the township of Khayelitsha in Cape Town, South Africa.

In 1990, South African **President F.W. de Klerk** agreed to allow the **African National Congress** to operate as a legal political party and he released **Nelson Mandela** after he served 27 years in prison. President de Klerk also began to repeal the apartheid laws.
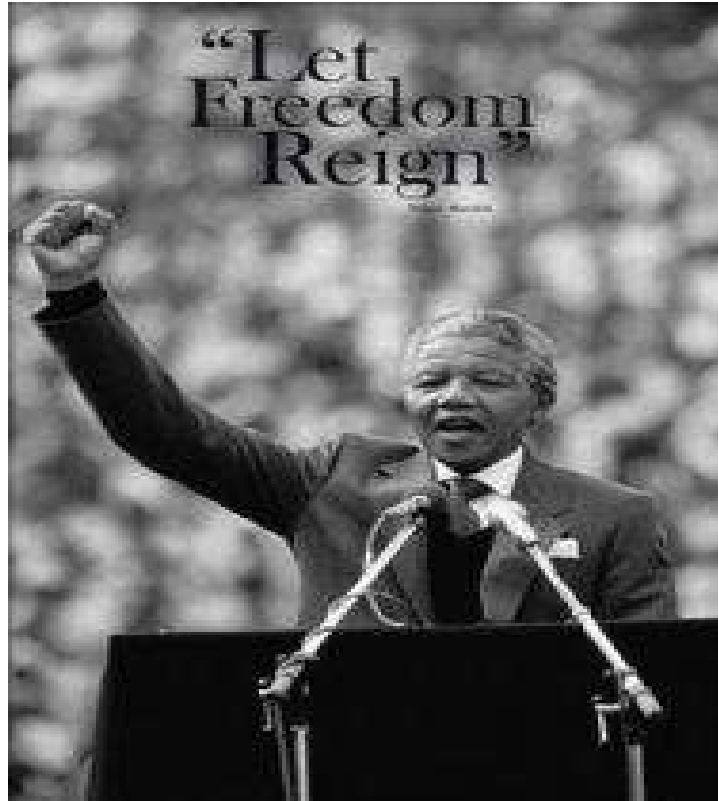
In 1994, South Africa had its first elections that were open to people of all races. The **African National Congress** won the most delegates to the new government and **Nelson Mandela** was chosen to be South Africa's first black president.

Above left: Mandela ran against and beat the man who released him, F.W. de Klerk; **right:** Mandela was sworn in as president in May 1994

Rather than be bitter about being jailed, Mandela announced that one of his goals was to get the races in South Africa to work together and try to overcome the hatred that had grown during the apartheid years.

One way that Nelson Mandela tried to unite the people of a divided South Africa was through the 1995 rugby World Cup. This time in Mandela's life was made into the movie *Invictus* starring Morgan Freeman as Nelson Mandela and Matt Damon as Francois Pienaar, the captain of the South Africa Springboks

SS7H1

The student will analyze continuity and change in Africa leading to the 21st century.

d. Explain the impact of the Pan-African movement.

The **Pan-African movement** began as a reaction to the terrible experiences of colonial rule and the desire for people of African descent, no matter where they lived in the world, to think of Africa as a homeland. The first people to support the idea of Pan-Africans were Africans who were living in other parts of the world.

People who supported this movement felt that all Africans, no matter where they lived, shared a bond with each other. They also called for Africans all over the continent to think of themselves as one people and to work for the betterment of all.

Above: a meeting of pan-African supporters in Harlem in New York City

The **Pan-African Movement** wanted to end European control of the continent and to make Africa a homeland for all people of African descent. Those in the movement also hoped that African countries would work together to improve each country's economy.

While the peaceful unification of Africa has never taken place, the **Pan-African movement** can take a lot of credit for sparking independence movements that left nearly all African nations free of colonial rule by the 1980s.

African National Independence

Featuring the Dates of Independence of Each Nation