



European Partitioning Across Africa

Colonization, Conflict, &
Artificial Boundaries

Standards

SS7H1 The student will analyze continuity and change in Africa leading to the 21st century.

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

Trade Routes

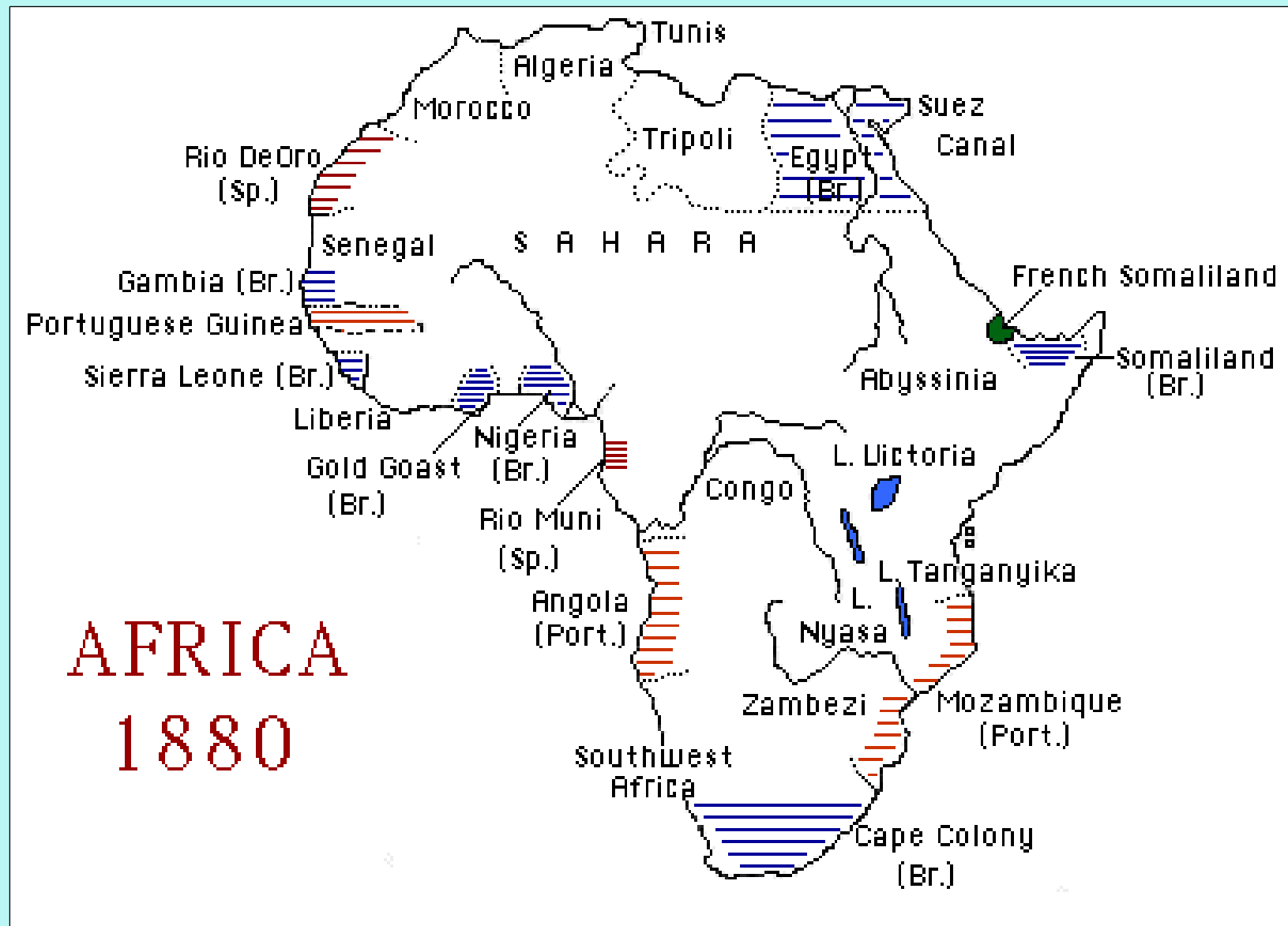
- Europeans first became interested in Africa for trade route purposes.
 - They were looking for ways to avoid the taxes of the Arab and Ottoman empires in Southwest Asia.
- Sailing around Africa was the obvious choice, but it was a long voyage and could not be completed without “pit stops” along the way.
 - Europeans created ports in southern and eastern Africa so traders could restock supplies before crossing the Indian Ocean.

Slave Trade

- During the 16th century, Portuguese explorers became engaged in the African slave trade.
 - They kidnapped Africans and forced them to work on plantations and mines in their colonies in the New World.
- Other European countries soon participated in the slave trade as well.
- The trans-Atlantic slave trade lasted from the 1500s to the mid-1800s.
 - Even after the slave trade had ended, European interest in Africa was still going strong.
- European countries saw that Africa was a continent full of vast natural resources and mineral wealth.

Imperialism

- “Age of Imperialism” refers to European countries competing for land and power.
 - Imperialism is a system where a strong country takes wealth and raw materials from another country.
- A “strong” country was supposed to have many colonies to increase its wealth and importance around the world.
- Many European countries expanded their empires by aggressively establishing colonies in Africa so that they could exploit and export Africa’s resources.
 - Raw materials like rubber, timber, diamonds, and gold were found in Africa.



3 main reasons for colonizing Africa

1. ECONOMIC reasons

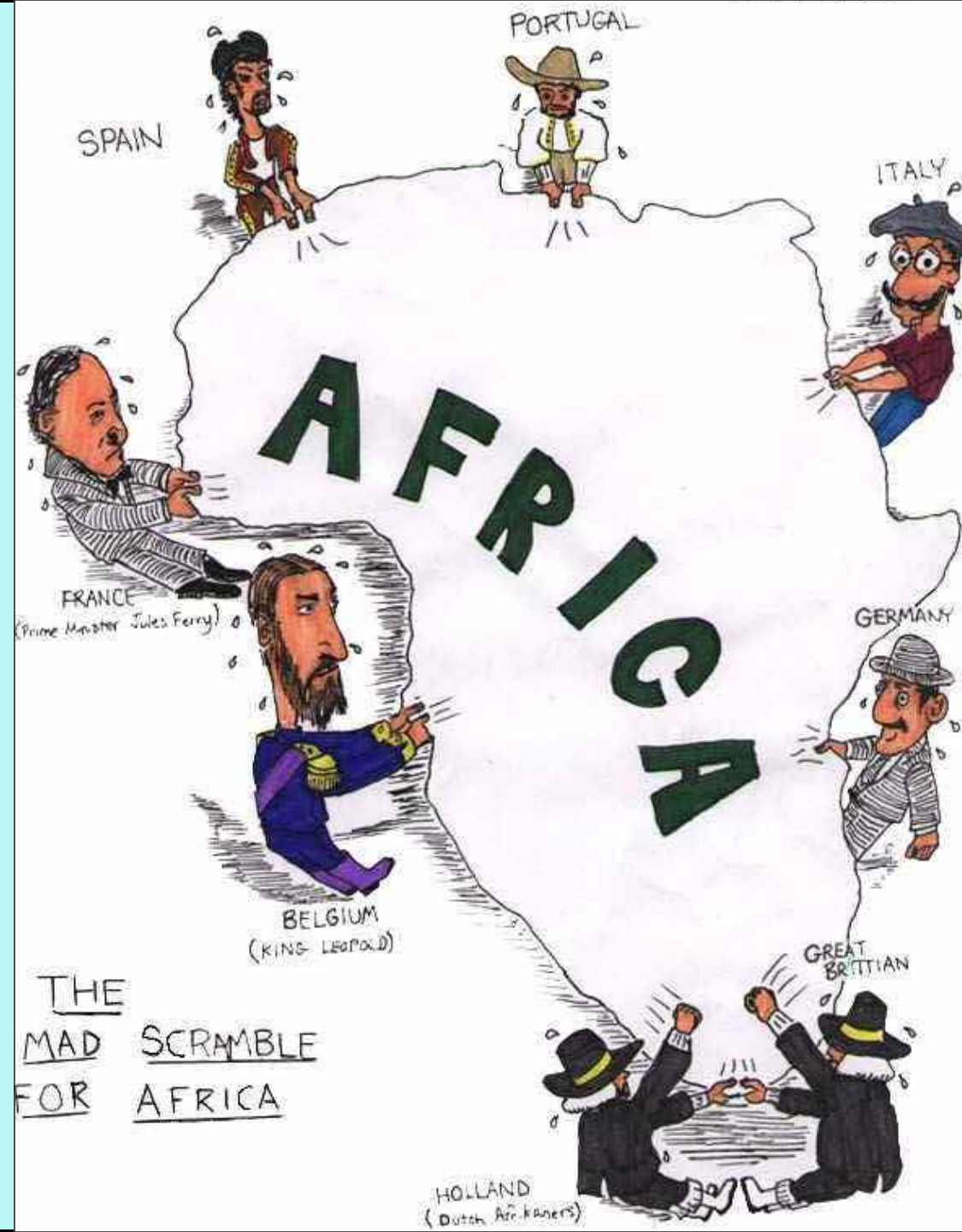
- Industrial Revolution was going on in Europe (1800's)
 - Factories required raw materials that could be manufactured into marketable products.
- Europeans would take raw materials from Africa and then sell the manufactured goods back to them

2. POLITICAL reasons

- No major nation wanted to be without colonies
 - MORE COLONIES meant more resources to be produced and sold which meant more money and power
 - This led to this “Scramble for Africa”

3. RELIGIOUS Reasons

- European missionaries desired to spread Christianity among the African citizens



THE
MAD SCRAMBLE
FOR AFRICA

Berlin Conference

- By the 1880s, most European countries wanted colonies in Africa
- To prevent a war, leaders from fourteen European governments and from the United States met in Berlin, Germany, in 1884.
 - No Africans attended the meeting.
- Before the meeting about 10% of Africa was under European colonial rule.
- After the meeting, most of Africa was colonized and controlled by European countries.
- The agreements made in Berlin still affect the boundaries of African countries today.









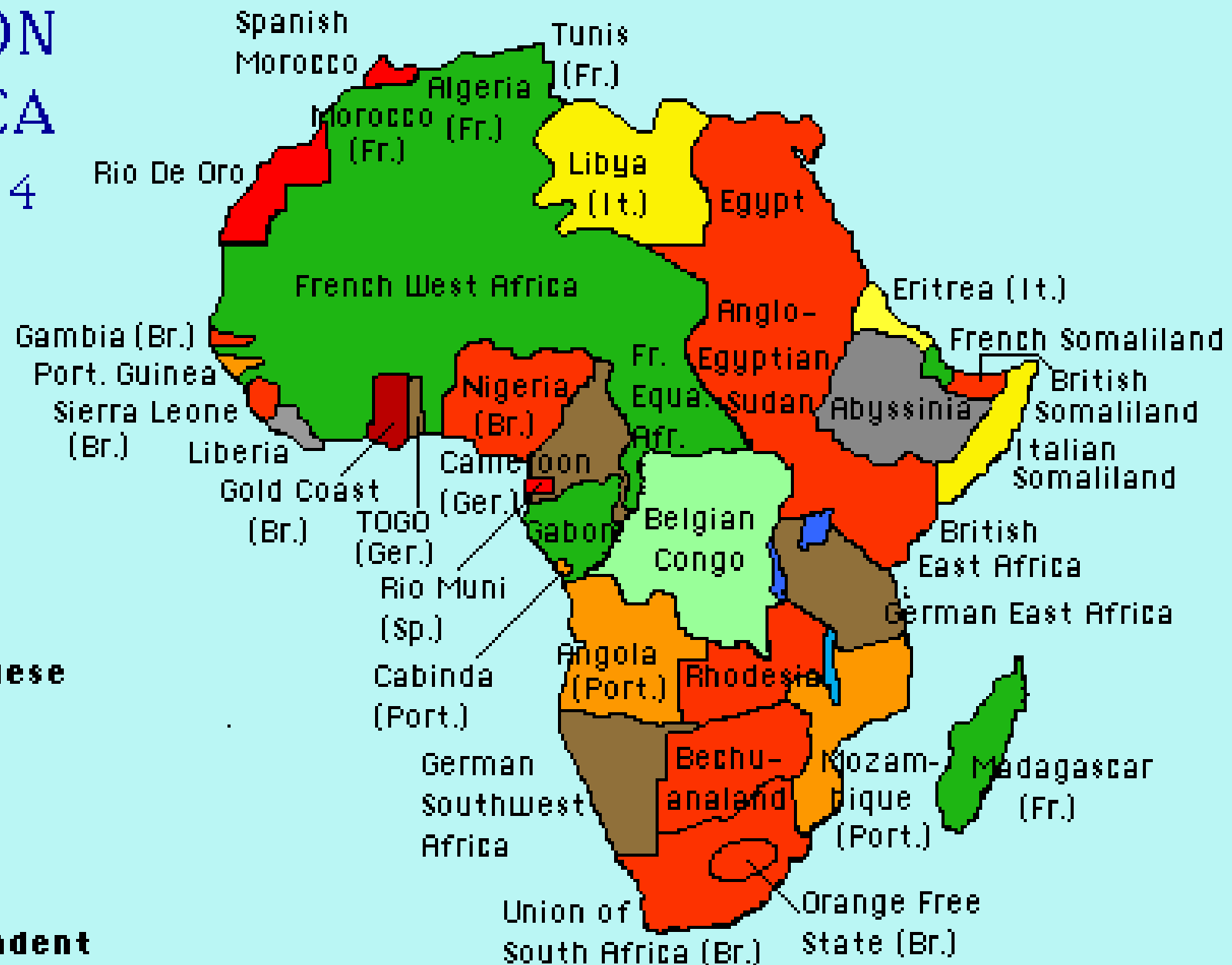
Berlin Conference

PARTITION OF AFRICA

1885 - 1914

Colonial Powers

-  **British**
-  **French**
-  **German**
-  **Portuguese**
-  **Italian**
-  **Belgian**
-  **Spanish**
-  **Independent**



Political Boundaries after Berlin Conference

Artificial Boundaries

- European powers organized Africa's population into efficient workforces
 - Ignored ethnic and cultural differences
 - They grouped together people who had never been united under the same government before.
 - Divided existing groups of people.
- These borders had a negative impact on Africa's political and social structures by either dividing groups that wanted to be together or combining ethnic groups that were enemies.
- Europeans practiced **INDIRECT RULE** – which meant they placed an African leader in charge to ensure rules were followed
- Europeans tried to assimilate Africans
- Protests and revolts were common and starvation and

Lasting Effects

- Europeans took the best land by force.
 - African farmers were forced to grow cash crops like cocoa and coffee, causing there to be a shortage of food in many areas of Africa.
- Africans were forced to work under terrible conditions on plantations, railways, and logging.
- In order to gain power, Europeans encouraged Africans to fight against each other.
 - New political boundaries caused ethnic groups to clash.
- This has led to ethnic and political unrest in Africa today.
 - There have been over 50 ethnic conflicts in Africa since WWII as a result of the colonial lines drawn by Europeans.

African Unrest

- By the 1950's, Africans began to openly oppose European control of their countries.
- It was obvious that colonialism was not fair, as it only benefitted the Europeans.
- Africans were tired of being treated like second-class citizens on their own land.
 - They soon begin to demand freedom for themselves...

Summary:

Impact of Colonial rule in Africa

POSITIVE IMPACT

- Schools and hospitals were built
- Improved health care
- Roads and railroads were built
- New governments and democracy
- Improved economies / New technologies

NEGATIVE IMPACT

- Slavery
- Wars and Riots
- Starvation and Poverty
- Disease
- Forced Cheap Labor
- Loss of Land and Power
- New boundaries separated families and tribes
- Civil Wars between ethnic groups



Africa's Independence Movements

South Africa, Kenya, & Nigeria

Standards

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.

Nationalism

- Most of Africa was under European colonization during the 1900's.
 - The only independent countries were Liberia and Ethiopia.
 - Liberia was founded in 1822 by former American slaves.
- Nationalism, a feeling of strong pride for one's country, fed the desire for independence from foreign rule.
 - Africans wanted to take control of their own governments and natural resources.

Changes

- Africa began to change by the 1940s.
 - The rule of tribal chiefs had weakened because of their links with colonial governments, thus limiting their ability to control people.
 - An educated middle class that disliked colonial life began to grow in the cities.
 - The cost for European countries to maintain colonies was rising.
- By the 1950's, unrest arose throughout the continent and African nations fought to free themselves from European control.

South Africa



Colonization

- In the 1600s, the British and the Dutch colonized South Africa.
- In 1910, Great Britain established the Union of South Africa, and power was only given to whites.
- In 1948, the National Party, came to power and enforced the policy of apartheid across South Africa.
 - Apartheid was a system of racial segregation.

Apartheid

- Legal separation of races in South Africa
- Apartheid allowed many Europeans to grow wealthy and powerful, while millions of South Africans suffered.
- In 1951, European government officials created the Bantu Authorities Act, which created “homelands” for black South Africans.
 - At this time, whites owned 80% of the land, although they only represented 10% of the population.
 - As a result of this law, 9 million South Africans were excluded from participating in the government.

FOR USE BY WHITE PERSONS

THESE PUBLIC PREMISES AND THE AMENITIES
THEREOF HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR THE
EXCLUSIVE USE OF WHITE PERSONS.

By Order Provincial Secretary

VIR GEBRUIK DEUR BLANKES

HIERDIE OPENBARE PERSEEL EN DIE GERIEWE
DAARVAN IS VIR DIE UITSLUITLIKE GEBRUIK
VAN BLANKES AANGEWYS.

Op Las Provinsiale Sekretaris

Sign during
the
apartheid
era.

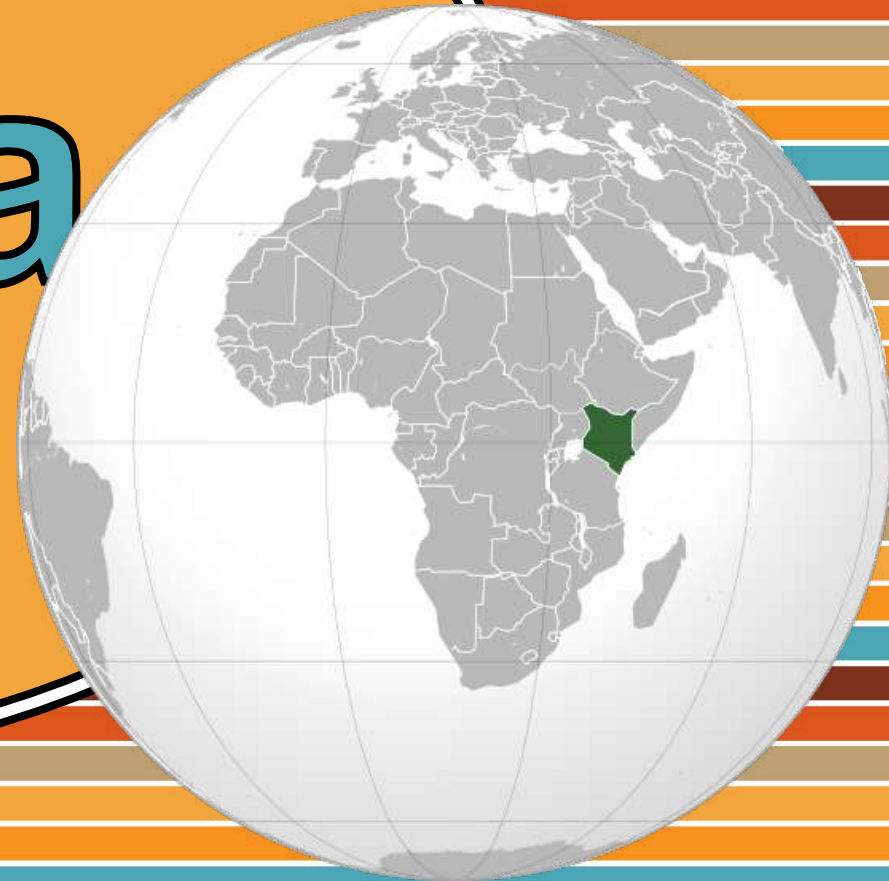
Independence

- South Africa's National Party, which was white-only and in favor of apartheid, had a goal to gain independence from Great Britain.
- In a white-only election in 1960, voters approved independence.
 - On May 31, 1961, the Republic of South Africa gained its independence from Britain.
- It took years of protests, several more decades, and a change of government leaders before blacks began to have a role in the government of South Africa.

Nelson Mandela was South Africa's first black chief executive, and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election (1994).



Kenya



Colonization

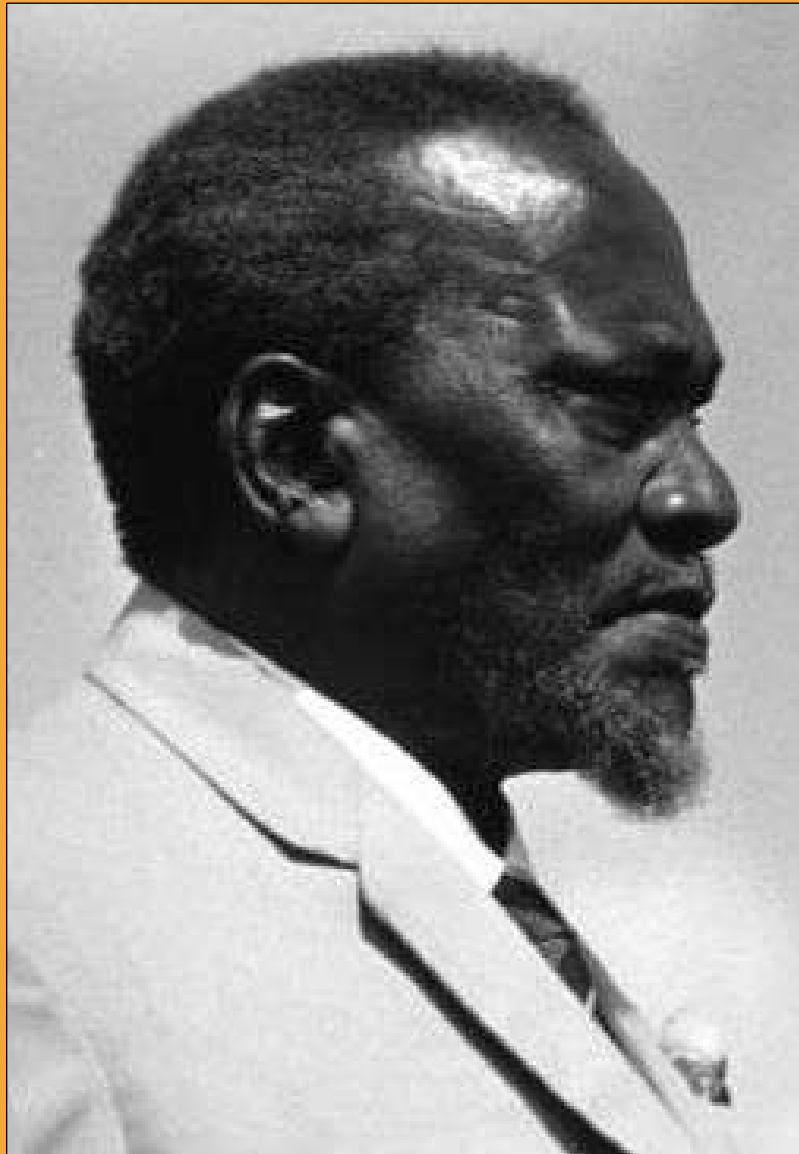
- For hundreds of years, outsiders did not enter the region now known as Kenya because of the fierce warrior tribes that inhabited the area.
- Arab traders took control of Kenya's coast during the 1800s.
- Next came Germany and Great Britain, but by the 1900s, the British were the only foreigners who remained.

Rebellion

- Most Kenyans were upset by their loss of rights as landowners to the British.
- Small bands of armed resistance forces (guerillas) fought to eliminate white settlers in Kenya, as well as any Africans who sided with them.
- In 1956, a violent rebellion occurred and resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Africans.

Independence

- Kenyans were tired of being treated unfairly, and it was time for a change.
- Jomo Kenyatta leader of the Kenyan National African Union (KNAU) fought for Kenya's independence
- December 12th, 1963, the British Empire granted Kenya its independence.
- Jomo Kenyatta was appointed as the nation's first president.
- Although independent from Great Britain, Kenyan citizens do not have many freedoms
 - They are controlled by the KNAU – one political parties makes all the decisions for the country



Jomo Kenyatta -- The first president and “founding father” of Kenya.

Nigeria



Nigeria

- The country now known as Nigeria was a diverse region with more than 250 ethnic groups.
 - Nigeria had maintained its independence until 1914 when Great Britain took over the area.
- By the end of World War II, Nigerians had started political parties to work for independence.
 - Most Nigerians believed that the only way to have rights was to be completely free of European rule.

Independence

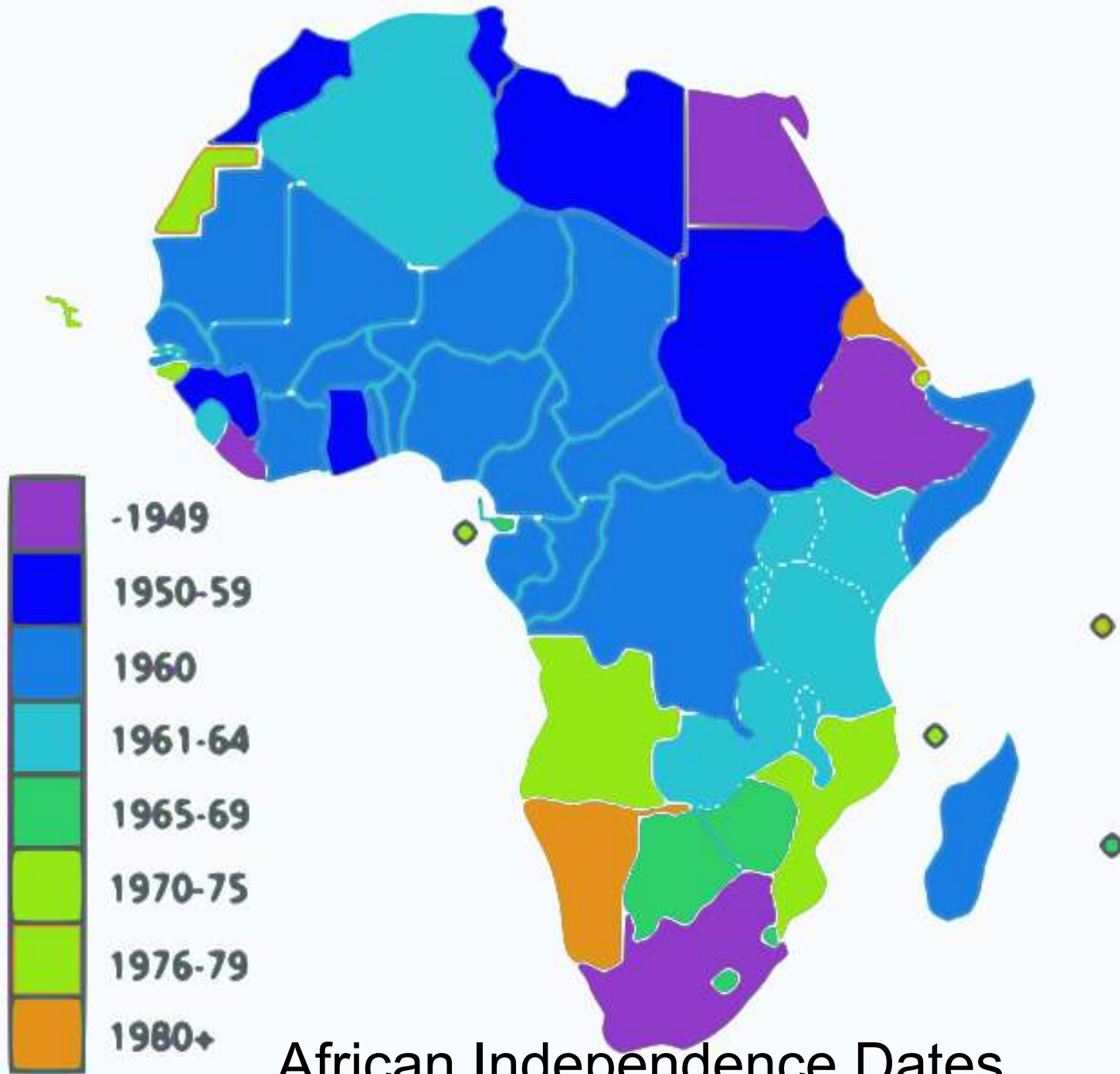
- On October 1st, 1960, Great Britain granted Nigeria independence and an independent government was established.
- At first, it was one of the most stable governments of the new African countries...
- Prime Minister was murdered during a military revolt in 1966

Nigeria Today

- Nigeria was originally one of the most stable countries
 - Unfortunately, struggles for power have resulted in many military coups in the country.
- Nigeria suffered from violence and military rule from 1966-1999, when a democratic government was established.
- In recent years, government instability, religious competition, ethnic differences and the need to become more modern continue to plague Nigeria.

The End

- By 1966, all but six African countries were independent nation-states.
- Unfortunately, once the countries were independent of European rule, they still faced many challenges.
 - Many of the new governments were politically unstable.
 - European powers did not teach new leaders how to govern.
 - In some African countries, military dictators took over the governments.
 - Also, rival ethnic groups caused civil wars



African Independence Dates