

# Conflict and Independence

*The 20<sup>th</sup> Century since 1945: Promises  
and Paradoxes (1945–Present)*



India and South Asia

China and Southeast Asia

The Middle East

Africa

Latin America

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the African struggle for independence and be able to answer these key questions:

- How did African countries fight for their independence?
- What problems did these countries face?
- What was apartheid, and how was it dealt with in South Africa?





# Africa after World War II



After World War II, the people of Africa were not willing to return to the European colonization that had dominated the preceding century. The outlook among the colonizers changed too, as they began to question the expense and the morality of holding colonies abroad.

In the decades after the war, the people of Africa won their independence, and set about building new nations.



What problems do you think the new nations faced after they gained independence?





# The struggle for independence



After World War II, many African countries faced a number of difficulties in maintaining stability after gaining their independence. Drag each country to the correct location on the map, and press the information buttons to find out about the road to independence in each area.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



What part do you think Imperialism played?



The East African nation of Rwanda saw one of the most bitter post-colonial ethnic conflicts, between the **Tutsi** and **Hutu** tribes.

The country was colonized by both Belgium and Germany in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries before the country gained independence in 1962.

This led to a violent struggle between the two tribes in the following years, which culminated in a civil war in 1990. In 1994 members of the Hutu tribe killed between 500,000 and 1 million Tutsis in the **Rwandan Genocide**.





Independence in Africa was a struggle for a number of countries. Can you match each country with the name of the first post-independence political leader?

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





Racial segregation had begun in South Africa during colonial rule, as a minority of white people ruled a large number of black people. However in 1948 it became an official policy of the National Government.

Society was divided into four groups:

- natives
- whites
- colored
- Asian.

A number of policies were enacted to ensure the complete social separation of these races.



What forms do you think this separation took?





In the 1950s, the **National Party** led by Daniel Malan pushed through a range of legislation which segregated society according to race.

This included the Group Areas Act in 1950, which established different residential zones for different races. This meant that non-whites were excluded from the most developed areas of the country, unless they worked as servants for whites.

In 1959, the **Promotion of Black Self-Government Act** established the **homelands**. These were areas set aside exclusively for black people, so that they could govern themselves in these lands.





The Promotion of Black Self-Government Act also removed the power to vote from the small number of black voters in the country.

This was furthered by the **Black States Citizenship Act** of 1970, which changed the status of black South Africans to being citizens of the homelands rather than citizens of South Africa.

This meant that the vast majority of the legal population of South Africa was white, and the homelands were effectively independent states.





As increasing controls were imposed on them by white people, the black natives of South Africa strengthened their resistance. Watch this animation for more information about the anti-apartheid movement.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





**F.W. de Klerk** became president in 1989. He released Nelson Mandela from prison and began repealing apartheid by ending segregation in public facilities and restricted land ownership laws.

South Africa's first elections with universal suffrage were held in April 1994. The ANC won a large majority and Nelson Mandela was elected president.



A new democratic constitution was introduced in 1996. It included a **bill of rights**, granting equal rights to all citizens regardless of race.

What problems does South Africa still face today?



In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Africa is becoming closer to stability, and the number of armed conflicts on the continent has declined.

Problems do still persist in Africa. Famine, corruption and diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria continue to cause suffering and loss of life.

However, African economies are growing more steadily, and many countries are attracting foreign investment.

The continent is taking steps towards democracy and a more strong and stable life for its inhabitants.

