Readings and Assessments

for

World Studies

Grade 7

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CONTENTS

HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDINGS

SS7H1 Evaluate continuity and change in Africa.
a. Examine how the European partitioning across Africa contributed to conflict, civil war, and artificial political boundaries in Africa today.

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

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.

IMPERIALISM

Europeans in the nineteenth 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. Some countries, like Britain, wanted to control areas of Africa to protect the 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. Other parts of Africa were 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. The Congo produced rubber, a key part of industrial production in Europe. Another key factor was the work of Christian missionaries. They saw European colonization of Africa as a way to bring Christianity to a "heathen" 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 the areas of Africa they controlled, organizing the African population in whatever ways would guarantee the most efficient work force. Others set up colonial governments. They forced the African population into going along with colonial demands for work and 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.

11

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 French took a more direct approach, encouraging Africans to become French citizens, a policy of **assimilation**. The French forced those they had conquered to give up their own customs and adopt French ways. Many people in African colonies controlled by France began speaking French and several applied for and were granted French citizenship.

_____ **1. Which group of people did some European powers use to be their "enforcers"?**
   A. famers
   B. soldiers
   C. policemen
   D. local chiefs

AFTER WORLD WAR II

Though they worked to keep order in their African colonies, few European powers did not do much to improve the lives of the Africans themselves, unless doing so would increase profits. This neglect remained largely the rule until after World War II. 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. They were taking advantage of African land and labor, and they saw the African people as second-class citizens. World Wars I and II had opened Africa to the rest of the world. They had fought on the side of the Europeans, and they now began to demand freedom for themselves.

Slowly the European powers began to liberate their African colonies. By 1960, there were 27 independent African countries. By 1975, over 47 were independent. 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. These new boundaries often followed old colonial boundaries, with little concern for the ethnic and religious groups that lived there.

_____ **2. Why did Europeans first take an interest in the African continent?**
   A. They were engaged in the slave trade.
   B. They wanted to control African industry.
   C. They wanted African agricultural products.
   D. They were invited to help organize African educational systems.

_____ **3. Why did the European countries eventually set up colonies in Africa?**
   A. They wanted to bring African laborers to Europe.
   B. They needed the raw material found on the African continent.
   C. Africans invited them in to help develop their natural resources.
   D. They wanted to help African nations settle ethnic and tribal disputes.

_____ 4. **Which is a system of acquiring colonies to provide raw materials for a stronger country?**
A. socialism
B. democracy
C. imperialism
D. communism

_____ 5. **Which was a part of early European plans for Africa?**
A. setting up democracies
B. bringing Islam to the African people
C. acquiring animals for European zoos
D. protecting trade and transportation routes

_____ 6. **Using African people to help European officials administer a colony was known as what form of government?**
A. socialism
B. monarchy
C. democracy
D. indirect rule

_____ 7. **What is the definition of "assimilation"?**
A. refusing to give up one's language for another one
B. demanding the return of a king as a national leader
C. refusing to change religions even though you are ordered to do so
D. giving up one's own customs and adopting those of another culture

_____ 8. **When did many African groups begin to challenge European colonial rule?**
A. in the 1800s
B. after World War II
C. before World War I
D. during the US Civil War

_____ 9. **Why did many of the boundaries of the new African states created after World War II cause problems?**
A. The boundaries split tribes and kinship groups.
B. All the boundaries carefully followed the paths of rivers.
C. All of the new countries were too large to rule effectively.
D. Europeans drew the boundaries so they could keep all the mineral wealth for themselves.

_____ 10. **Which was most often used to draw new boundaries for African countries?**
A. Europeans followed the old colonial boundaries.
B. Europeans simply drew straight lines on the map and made countries into squares.
C. They used only geographic features like rivers and mountain ranges for boundaries.
D. Most boundaries were drawn after looking at where different ethnic groups and tribes lived.

13

SS7H1 Evaluate the continuity and change in Africa.

b. Examine how the Pan-African Movement and nationalism led to independence in Kenya and Nigeria.

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. They felt 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. They 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 could 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.

_____ **11. The main goal of the Pan-Africa movement was to**
   A. end any support for the African National Congress.
   B. immediately overthrow all of the ruling governments in Africa.
   C. get all African nations to become members of the United Nations.
   D. get Africans to think of themselves as one people and to work together.

KENYA

Kenya was colonized by the British. Throughout the colonial period, racial discrimination was common. The Kenyans were unhappy with the British rule. As a result of their poor treatment, nationalism began to grow and spread. At the same time, the Pan-African movement began. The idea of Pan-Africanism is to encourage all Africans to work together and think of Africa as a homeland regardless of where they live. The goal was to unite Africans to work for the betterment of all and end European rule.

Jomo Kenyatta was one of the leaders of Kenya's independence movement, and he was also a leader of the Pan-African movement. After decades of working for independence, Kenya gained her independence on December 12, 1963. Jomo Kenyatta became the first president of Kenya. However, free and fair elections would not be held again for over 30 years!

NIGERIA

Nigeria was part of the British Empire. The British were first interested in slaves from Nigeria, but after the slave trade was abolished in 1807, the British continued to control Nigeria. The British were interested in the natural resources found in Nigeria, like cocoa, palm oil, and rubber. Because of the tight control the British had on Nigeria, the people were unhappy and nationalism began to spread. In addition to nationlism, Pan Africanism also spread throughout Nigeria. Nigerians supported the major goals of the Pan-African movement which are uniting all people of African descent to work together for the betterment of all and to end European rule.

Nigeria finally received independence in 1960, At first, the newly indepent Nigeria was calm and peaceful. However, within a few months a civil war broke out between the Christian south and the Muslim north. Even after the civil war ended, peace did not return to Nigerial for decades. The government was controlled by the military and dictators until 1999, when a new constitution was written, and peaceful elections were held.

AFRICA

12. Why is Jomo Kenyatta important in Kenyan history?
   A. He ended segregation.
   B. He helped the British maintain power in Kenya.
   C. He was an independence leader and first president.
   D. He seized power without an election and made a military dictatorship.

13. Why was the government of Kenya criticized after independence, even though it was led by Africans?
   A. They voted to bring the old king back to power.
   B. The government was controlled by only one party.
   C. They put an apartheid system of government in place.
   D. The new government refused to trade with western countries.

14. What conflict broke out in Nigeria after independence was declared?
   A. religious conflict between Muslims and Christians
   B. a government decision that handed rule over to a dictator
   C. protests by women in Nigeria who demanded equal rights
   D. arguments over writing a constitution that called for apartheid

15. How could the political situation in Nigeria today be described?
   A. The government is still unstable.
   B. Ghana took over Nigeria in a regional war several years ago.
   C. The United Nations has taken over the government of Nigeria.
   D. Nigeria currently has a government that is able to deal effectively with all its problems.

AFRICA

15

SS7H1 Examine continuity and change in Africa.

c. Examine the creation and end of apartheid in South **Africa** 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. Blacks were allowed to own only a very little land, even though they made up over 70 percent 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 of the laws for the nonwhite majority.
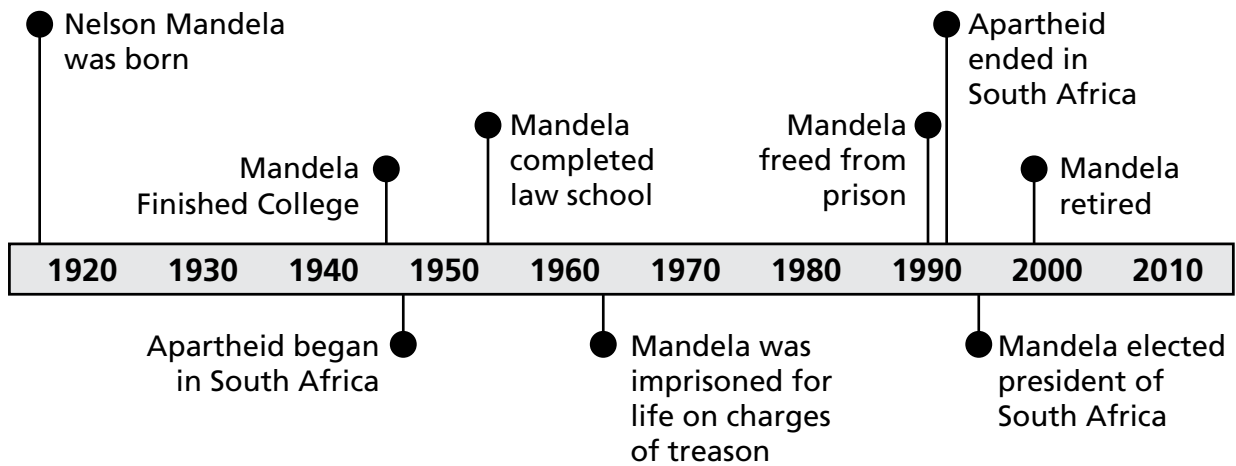
Throughout these years, two groups were working to end this South African regime, the African National Congress led by **Nelson Mandela**, and the Pan African Congress. Many countries around the world were critical of South Africa for its discriminatory government. Some refused to do business with South Africa. 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 the modern world. In 1990, South African **President F. W. de Klerk** agreed to allow the African National Congress to operate as a legal party and he released Nelson Mandela from prison after he had served 27 years in prison. De Klerk also began to repeal the apartheid laws. In 1994, South Africa had its first elections that were open to all races. The African National Congress won the most delegates to the new government and Nelson Mandela was chosen South Africa's first black president. 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.

16. **What percent of South Africans were black during apartheid?**
   A. 20 percent
   B. 40 percent
   C. 50 percent
   D. 70 percent

17. **What was the name of Nelson Mandela's political party?**
   A. Zulu Nation
   B. African Union
   C. African National Congress
   D. Kenyan National Unity Party

18. **What decision did South African President F.W. de Klerk eventually make about the country's apartheid laws?**
   A. He added many new and even harsher laws.
   B. He began to recommend that the laws be repealed.
   C. He lifted segregation restrictions on those living in South African cities.
   D. He worked to spread apartheid laws to nations neighboring South Africa.

_____ **19. What was Nelson Mandela's attitude toward the people who had been responsible for the old government of South Africa?**
   A. Many of the old leaders were sent to jail on his orders.
   B. He turned the leaders over to the United Nations for punishment.
   C. He tried to have all the old government officials exiled to other countries.
   D. He felt the different races needed to try to work together in the new government.

EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF NELSON MANDELA

● Nelson Mandela was born

Mandela Finished College ●

● Mandela completed law school

Mandela freed from prison ●

● Apartheid ended in South Africa

● Mandela retired

| 1920 | 1930 | 1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |

Apartheid began in South Africa ●

● Mandela was imprisoned for life on charges of treason

● Mandela elected president of South Africa

AFRICA

_____ **20. In what year was Nelson Mandela born?**
   A. 1918
   B. 1945
   C. 1962
   D. 1999

_____ **21. About how long after Mandela was imprisoned did he become president of South Africa?**
   A. about 30 years
   B. nearly 20 years
   C. less than 10 years
   D. more than 40 years

_____ **22. Which event in Mandela's life happened before the official beginning of apartheid?**
   A. Mandela completed college.
   B. Mandela finished law school.
   C. Mandela was convicted of treason.
   D. Mandela retired as president of South Africa.