

# Aim: How did African nations gain independence?



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# Background

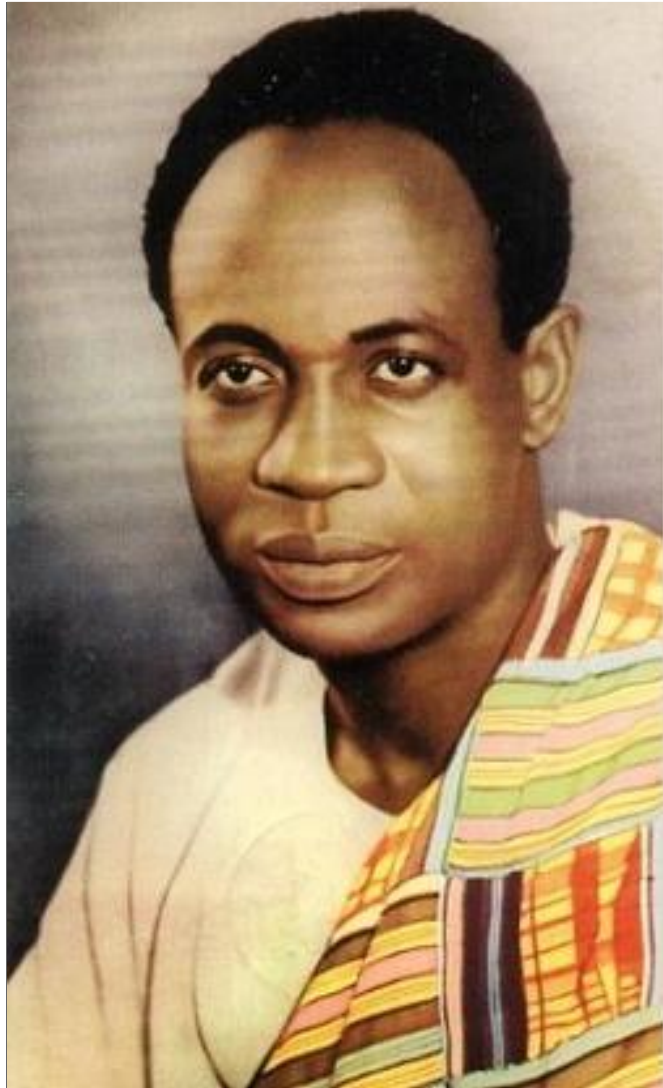
- ∞ African soldiers fought alongside Europeans to “defend freedom” during World War II
- ∞ This made them unwilling to accept colonial domination when they returned home
- ∞ Africans and Europeans began questioning the cost and morality of imperialism.

# Process of Independence

- ∞ Indirect rule (local officials and colonists enjoyed limited self rule) – easier transition to independence
- ∞ Direct rule (foreigners governed at all levels) – independence came with more difficulty
- ∞ Most new African nations found the road to independence to be difficult no matter what

# Process of Independence Ghana

- ❧ Previously known as “Gold Coast”
- ❧ Began by making preparation for independence (allowing more Africans to be nominated to legislative council).
- ❧ Kwame Nkrumah started working to liberate Gold Coast in 1947 with strikes and boycotts
- ❧ Despite multiple imprisonments, his efforts were successful



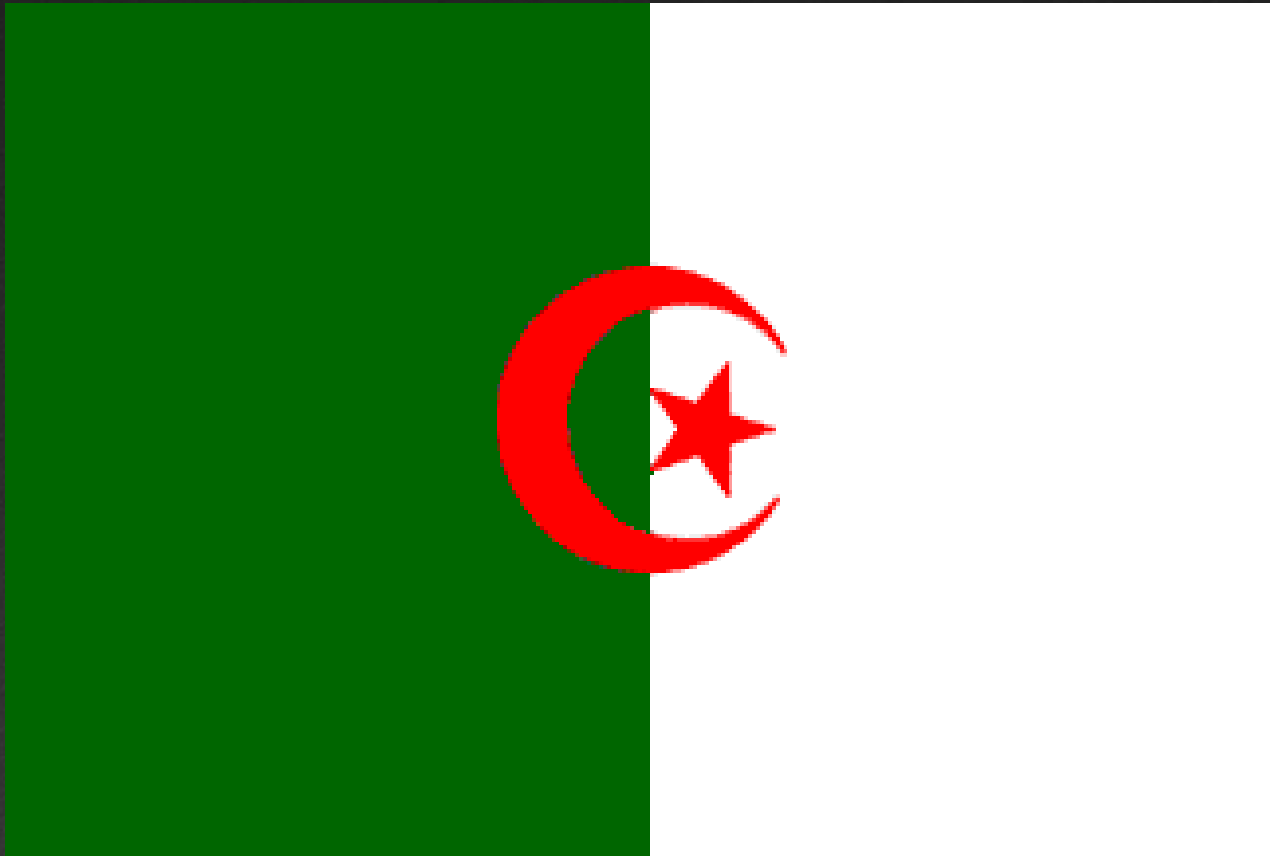
*"A State in the grip of neo-colonialism is not master of its own destiny. It is this factor which makes neo-colonialism such a serious threat to world peace."*

*Kwame Nkrumah*

# Process of Independence Algeria

- ∞ Population of 1 million french colonists and 9 million Arabs and Berber Muslims
- ∞ French refused to share political power with native Algerians after World War II
- ∞ Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) announced intentions to fight for independence
- ∞ French sent ½ million troops into Algeria to fight FLN
- ∞ FLN prevailed

# Flag of the FLN



Aim: Why has it been a  
struggle for African  
nations to achieve  
democracy?





# Struggles of Democracy

- ❧ Lingering effects of colonialism made democracy very difficult
- ❧ Europeans ignored ethnic/cultural divisions, leading to conflicts and making nationalism difficult
- ❧ Colonies viewed as sources of wealth by Europeans
- ❧ Nations had unbalanced economies and small middle class
- ❧ African community and family life disrupted

# Struggles of Democracy Nigeria

- ☞ Won independence peacefully in 1960
- ☞ 3 major ethnic groups: Hausa-Fulani (Muslim), Yoruba, and Igbo (Christians).
- ☞ Adopted a federal system and set up 3 states (one for each region and ethnic group)
- ☞ States also had ethnic minorities, which led to conflict

# Ethnic Groups of Nigeria



# Struggles of Democracy Nigeria Continued

- ❧ Yoruba control resented by non-Yoruba, and Igbo seized power
- ❧ Hausa-Fulani attacked the Igbo, many Igbo were killed
- ❧ Eastern Region declared itself the new nation of Biafra
- ❧ Nigerian gov't went to war to reunite the country, the Igbo badly outnumbered, more than a million killed.
- ❧ Biafra surrendered and Nigeria was reunited.

# Struggles of Democracy South Africa

- ∞ On one hand the most prosperous, industrialized, and technologically advanced country
- ∞ Also most deeply racist, which led to segregation and unequal suffrage
- ∞ The African National Congress (ANC) and other groups called for the end of discrimination
- ∞ Almost 70 unarmed protesters were killed

# Struggles of Democracy South Africa Continued

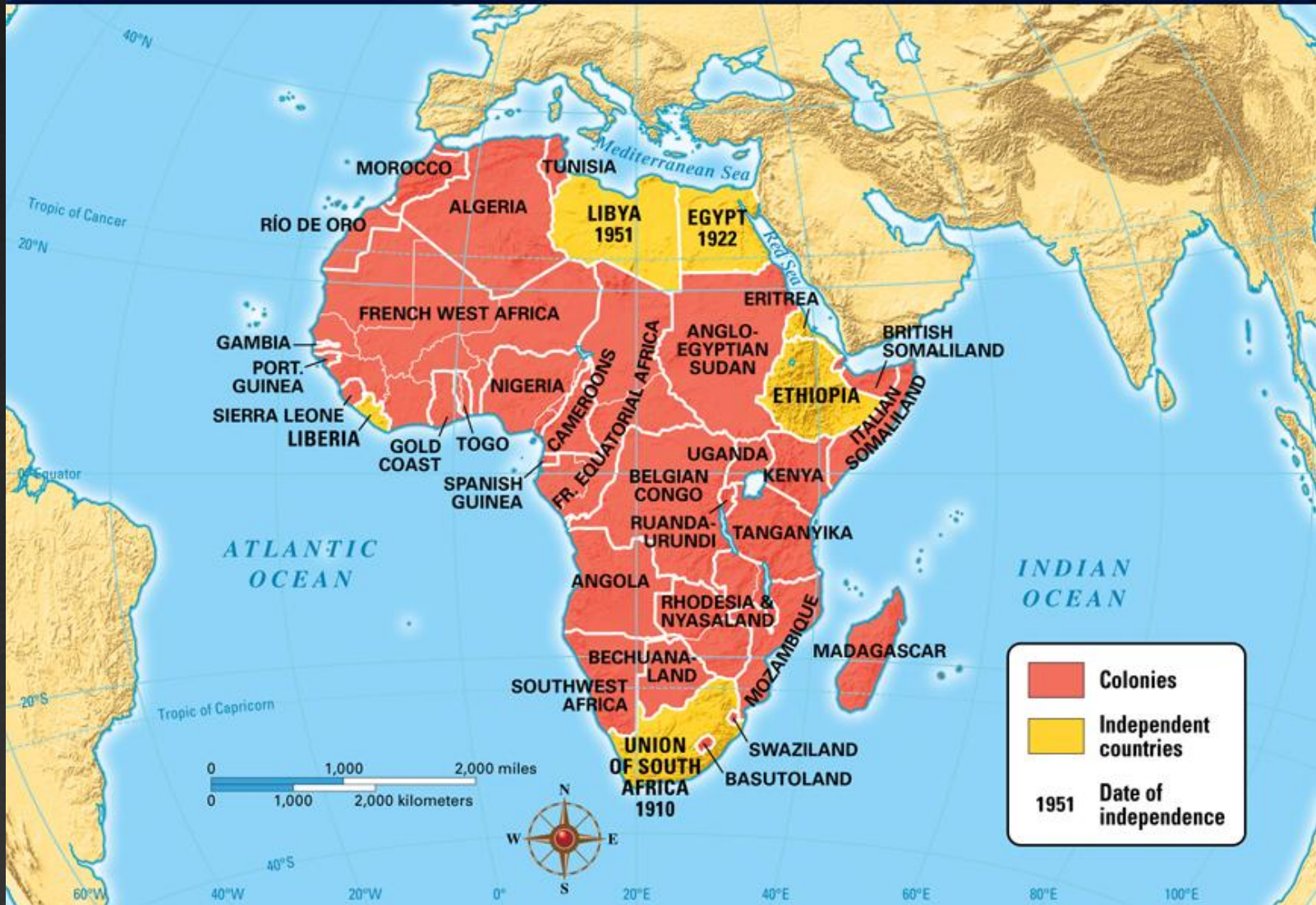
- ❧ Government struck back with treason trials, such as the imprisonment of ANC's Nelson Mandela
- ❧ Whites voted to withdraw from British Commonwealth, but resistance continued.
- ❧ Internal unrest, worldwide revulsion, and threat of economic sanctions and divestment finally ended apartheid in 1994.
- ❧ Nelson Mandela elected president

Poverty is not an accident.  
Like slavery and apartheid,  
it is man-made and  
can be removed by  
the actions of  
human beings.

- Nelson Mandela



# Africa, 1955





# Africa, 1975

