

#40—Crash Course World History Video Notes
Decolonization

1. As we've seen from Egypt to Alexander the Great to China to Rome to the Mongols, who, for once, are not the exception here, to the Ottomans and the Americas, _____ has long been the dominant way we've organized ourselves politically--or at least the way that other people have organized us.
2. The late 20th century was not the first time that empires disintegrated. Rome comes to mind; also the Persians; and of course the _____ Revolution ended one kind of European imperial experiment. But in all those cases, Empire struck back...Britain lost its 13 colonies, but later controlled half of _____ and all of _____.
3. What makes the recent decolonization so special is that at least so far, no empires have emerged to replace the ones that fell. This was largely due to World War II because on some level, the Allies were fighting to stop _____ imperialism: Hitler wanted to take over Central Europe, and Africa, and probably the Middle East--and the Ally defeat of the Nazis discredited the whole idea of empire.
4. The English, French, and Americans found it difficult to continue their imperialistic ventures after the war since the _____ troops fought alongside them; plus, most of the big colonial powers-- had been significantly _____ by World War II.
5. So, post-war _____ happened all over the place: the British colony that had once been " _____ " became three independent nations. In Southeast Asia, French _____ became Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. And the Dutch East Indies became _____. When we think about decolonization, we mostly think about Africa.
6. Decolonization throughout Afro-Eurasia had some similar characteristics:
 - a. It occurred in the context of the _____, many of these new nations had to choose between socialist and capitalist influences, which shaped their futures.
 - b. While many of these new countries eventually adopted some form of _____, the road there was often rocky.
 - c. Also decolonization often involved _____, usually the overthrow of colonial elites.
7. But we'll turn now to the most famous nonviolent decolonization: that of _____.
8. So the story begins, more or less, in 1885 with the founding of the Indian _____ whose leaders were usually from the elite classes.
9. The best known Indian nationalist, Mohandas K. _____. A British educated lawyer born to a wealthy family, he's known for making his own clothes, his long _____, and his battles to alleviate poverty, improve the rights of _____, and achieve a unified Indian independence from Britain. In terms of decolonization, he stands out for his use of _____.
10. Gandhi and his compatriot Jawaharlal _____ believed that a single India could continue to be ruled by Indian elites and somehow transcend the tension between the country's _____ majority and its sizable _____ minority.
11. In this they were less practical than their contemporary, Muhammad Ali _____, the leader of the Muslim League who felt--"that the unified India of which the Congress spoke was an artificial one, created and maintained by British _____."
12. Jinnah proved correct and in 1947 when the British left, their Indian colony was partitioned into the modern state of India and West and East _____, the latter of which became Bangladesh in 1971.
13. While it's easy to congratulate both the British and the Indian governments on an orderly and nonviolent transfer of power, the reality of partition was neither orderly nor nonviolent. About _____ million people were displaced as _____ in Pakistan moved to India and _____ in India moved to Pakistan; as people left their homes, sometimes unwillingly, there was violence.
14. Indonesia, a huge nation of over _____ islands, was exploited by the _____ with the system of *kulturstelsel*, in which all peasants had to set aside one fifth of their land to grow cash crops for export to the Netherlands. This accounted for 25% of the total Dutch national budget.

15. The Dutch couldn't even defend their colony from the _____, who occupied it for most of World War II, during which time the Japanese furthered the cause of Indonesian _____ by placing native Indonesians in more prominent positions of power.
16. After the war, the Dutch--with British help--tried to hold onto their Indonesian colonies with so-called " _____," which went on for more than four years before Indonesia finally won its independence in 1950.
17. Over in the French colonies of _____, so called because they were neither Indian nor Chinese, things were even more violent...
18. The end of colonization was disastrous in _____, where the 17-year reign of Norodom Sihanouk gave way to the rise of the Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, massacred a stunning _____ of Cambodia's population between 1975 and 1979.
19. In Vietnam, the French fought communist-led nationalists, especially _____ from almost the moment World War II ended until 1954, when the French were defeated. Then the Americans quickly took over from the French, as part of the containment policy; communists did not fully control Vietnam until _____.
20. You'll remember that Egypt bankrupted itself in the 19th century, trying to industrialize and ever since had been ruled by an Egyptian king who took his orders from the _____. So while technically Egypt had been independent since 1922, it was very dependent independence.
21. But, that changed in the 1950s, when the king was overthrown by the army in a coup led by Gamal Abdul _____, who proved brilliant at playing the US and the USSR off each other to the benefit of Egypt.
22. Nasser's was a largely secular nationalism, and he and his successors saw one of the other anti-imperialistic nationalist forces in Egypt, the _____, as a threat. So once in power, Nasser and the army banned the Muslim Brotherhood, forcing it underground, where it would disappear and never become an issue again....or at least until 2011 with the "Arab Spring".
23. Central and Southern Africa colonial boundaries became redefined as the borders of new nation states, even where those boundaries were arbitrary or, in some cases, pernicious. The best known example is in _____, where two very different tribes, the Hutu and the Tutsis were combined into one nation.
24. The colonizers' focus on value _____ really hurt these new nations. Europeans claimed to bring civilization and economic development to their colonies, but this economic development focused solely on building infrastructure to get _____ and export them.
25. When the Europeans left, African nations did not have the _____ necessary to thrive in the post-war industrial world. They had very few _____, for instance, and even fewer universities.
26. Also, in many of these new countries, the traditional elites had been undermined by _____. Most Europeans didn't rule their African possessions directly but rather through the proxies of local rulers. And once the Europeans left, those local rulers, the upper classes, were seen as illegitimate _____. This meant that a new group of rulers had to rise up to take their place, often with very little _____ governance.
27. Mostly strongmen have emerged, of course, from the military: Joseph Mobutu seized power in the _____, which he held from 1965 until his death in 1997. Idi Amin was military dictator of _____ from 1971 to 1979. Muammar Gaddafi ruled _____ from 1977 until 2011.
28. While the continent does have less _____ and lower levels of _____ than other regions in the world, many African nations show strong and consistent signs of growth despite the challenges of decolonization. Botswana for instance has gone from 70% _____ to 85% in the past 15 years and has seen steady GDP growth over 5%. Benin's economy has grown in each of the past _____ years, which is better than Europe or the U. S. can say. In 2002, Kenya's life expectancy was 47; today it's _____. Ethiopia's per capita _____ has doubled over the past 10 years; and Mauritania has seen its _____ mortality rate fall by more than 40%. Now, this progress is spotty and fragile, but it's important to note that these nations have existed, on average, only 50 years.