

## Reading Essentials and Study Guide Independence and Nationalism in the Developing World

### Lesson 3 *Africa*

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

How can political change cause conflict?

How can political relationships affect economic relationships?

#### Reading HELPDESK

##### *Content Vocabulary*

**apartheid** "apartness"; the system of racial segregation in South Africa from the 1950s until 1991

**Pan-Africanism** the unity of all black Africans, regardless of national boundaries

**HIV/AIDS** human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; any of the strains of HIV-1 and HIV-2 that infect and destroy the immune system's helper T cells causing a large drop in their numbers, and becomes AIDS when a person has 20 percent or less than the normal level of helper T cells

##### *Academic Vocabulary*

**goal** an aim or a purpose

**diverse** varied and not alike

**theme** a subject or topic of artistic work

**TAKING NOTES:** Categorizing Information

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1. *ACTIVITY* As you read, complete the chart below and identify the different economic views held by African leaders after independence.

African Leader	Country	Economic Views

### IT MATTERS BECAUSE

*Africa's road to independence has not been easy. Africa's nations had been freed from colonial rule, but many of these nations faced serious political, economic, social, and health challenges.*

### Independence and New Nations

**GUIDING QUESTIONS** What challenges did newly independent African countries face? What challenges have been overcome by African countries?

After World War II Europeans realized that colonial rule in Africa would have to end. The Charter of the United Nations, which was written in 1945, supported this belief. It stated that all colonial peoples should have the right to self-determination. This meant they should rule themselves. Most African nations achieved independence in the late 1950s and 1960s.

The list of African nations that gained independence is long.

- In 1957 the Gold Coast was the first British colony to gain independence. It was renamed Ghana and was led by Kwame Nkrumah.
- In 1960 the Belgian Congo gained independence from the Belgians. It was renamed Zaire. It is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Nigeria gained independence from the British that same year.
- Many other nations became independent in the 1960s. These included Uganda, Kenya, and

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Botswana.

- Portugal finally surrendered Mozambique and Angola in 1975. North African nations also gained independence.
- The French granted full independence to Morocco and Tunisia nations in 1956.
- Algeria was home to a million French settlers, and as a result, France chose to keep control there. However, Algerian nationalists began a guerrilla war to free their homeland. Charles de Gaulle, the French leader, granted Algeria its independence in 1962.

### South Africa and Apartheid

Whites dominated the political system in South Africa. The process for independence there was complicated. Blacks began organizing against white rule, and they formed the African National Congress (ANC) in 1912. Its **goal was economic and political reform, but the ANC's efforts were not very successful.** South African whites were descendants of the Dutch. They were known as Afrikaners. They made the laws separating whites and blacks stronger by the 1950s. The result was a system of racial segregation, or separation based on race. It was known as **apartheid**, or "apartness."

Blacks protested these laws, but the white government used violence to stop the protestors. In 1960 police opened fire on people who were leading a peaceful march in Sharpeville. They killed 69 people, most of them shot in the back. The ANC leader Nelson Mandela was arrested in 1962, and as a result, members of the ANC called for armed resistance to the white government.

### New Nations and New Leaders

The African states that achieved independence in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s still faced many problems. The leaders of these states dreamed of stable governments and economic prosperity, and their citizens had the same dreams. Many of these dreams still have not been realized.

Most leaders of the newly independent states came from the urban middle class. They had studied in Europe or the United States and knew European languages. They believed in using the Western democratic model in Africa.

The views of African leaders on economics were **diverse**. Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya and General Mobutu Sese Seko of the Democratic Republic of the Congo believed in Western-style capitalism. Leaders in Angola and Mozambique followed Soviet-style communism. Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Sékou Touré of Guinea, and Patrice Lumumba of the Republic of Congo wanted an African form of socialism.

The African form of socialism was not like what was practiced in the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe. It was based on African traditions of community. It meant that the ownership of the **country's wealth would be put into the hands of the people.** Nyerere declared in 1967 that the main idea of socialism is the belief that all people are equal and share a common humanity.

Some African leaders believed in **Pan-Africanism**. This meant the unity of all black Africans in all

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countries. Pan-Africanists felt that all black African peoples shared a common identity. Many new African leaders supported Pan-Africanism, including Léopold Senghor of Senegal, Kwame Nkrumah, and Jomo Kenyatta. Nkrumah hoped that a Pan-African union would join all the new countries of the continent in a bigger community. His dream never became reality, however. There was one clear result of the idea of Pan-Africanism. The leaders of 32 African states founded the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. The OAU gave support to African groups that were fighting against colonialism. The group also united against the influence of the United States and the Soviet Union in Africa during the Cold War.

### Economic and Political Challenges

Independence did not bring economic prosperity to the new African nations. Most of the nations still relied on the export of a single crop or natural resource. For example, Liberia depended on the export of rubber, and Nigeria depended on oil. Their economies suffered when prices of these products dropped. Africa also depended on foreign investment. Most African states bought technology and manufactured goods from the West, and they depended on foreign money to develop their countries' economies.

The new states also sometimes created their own problems. They spent money from the sale of natural resources on military equipment or expensive consumer goods. It was not used for building an industrial economy. In addition, corruption was common.

Droughts and fast population growth have slowed economic progress. They also resulted in a lack of needed resources. Droughts have occurred in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Uganda since the 1980s, and they have caused starvation and migration.

Poverty was widespread among people in both rural and urban areas. Cities grew, and people from rural areas moved to the huge slums that arose around cities. The large population overwhelmed sanitation and transportation systems. Pollution and endless traffic jams were the result, and millions of people lived without electricity or even clean water. However, in contrast, a few enjoyed wealthy lifestyles. The rich in many East African countries are known as the *wabenzi*, or Mercedes-Benz people, because they often drive that make of car.

Diseases also caused major challenges to African progress. **HIV/AIDS** is a worldwide epidemic, but Africa is hardest hit by the disease. HIV/AIDS has had a serious impact on children and families in Africa. Many children have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Relatives are often too poor to care for these children. Older children became heads of households filled with younger brothers and sisters after both their parents have died. Extended families have traditionally been the source of support in difficult times, especially in rural Africa, and they traditionally take care of orphans in their families. The HIV/AIDS epidemic, however, has been too much for this support system to handle.

African nations have taken steps to fight the epidemic, but HIV/AIDS has been a huge problem. Many of these countries do not have the money or health facilities to educate their citizens about

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the disease and how to protect against it. They cannot buy the drugs that would help those with HIV live longer lives.

Africans also faced political challenges. Many people hoped that independence would lead to democracies, but they were soon disappointed. Democratic governments failed in many places. More than 70 leaders were violently overthrown between 1957 and 1982. Either the military or a single party ruled many major African states in the 1980s. In the 1990s, multiparty elections increased, but single-party rule was still common.

The OAU pushed for nonalignment in the Cold War. However, proxy wars occurred in some nations, in which the United States and the Soviet Union supported different sides in conflicts. Such wars occurred in Angola, Somalia, and Zaire. The long conflicts in some parts of Africa hurt their political development.

Warring ethnic groups worked against the idea of nationhood in many African nations. This is not surprising because the colonial powers did not make the boundaries of African nations according to any real plan. Most of the African states included very different ethnic and language groups.

For example, civil war tore Nigeria apart during the late 1960s. Conflicts also broke out among ethnic groups in Zimbabwe. Fighting between the Hutu and Tutsi created unstable governments in Rwanda and Burundi. The Hutu and Tutsi had lived together during the colonial period. Two new countries were created in that area after independence in 1962. These countries were Rwanda and Burundi. The population in both countries was mixed, but the Hutu majority ran the government in Rwanda. The Hutu resented the Tutsis, who had gotten the best education and jobs under the colonial ruler of the area, the Belgians. In 1994 a Hutu attack left some five hundred thousand Tutsi dead in Rwanda.

Not all the news in Africa has been bad. Popular protests in several countries led one-party governments to collapse and democracies to emerge. One example was in Uganda. Idi Amin ruled the country by terror throughout the 1970s, but he was overthrown in 1979. Dictatorship also came to an end in Ethiopia, Liberia, and Somalia. However, the fall of the regimes was later followed by bloody civil wars. Also, apartheid ended in South Africa.

### **The End of Apartheid**

Nelson Mandela was elected president of the Republic of South Africa in 1994. It is considered one of the most remarkable events in recent African history. Mandela had been imprisoned in 1962 for his activities with the African National Congress.

Mandela spent almost 26 years in maximum-security prisons in South Africa. For all those years, he never gave up his determination to gain freedom for his country. Mandela was offered his personal freedom in 1985, but there were restrictions, or limitations, placed on his actions. He refused to accept such restrictions, and so he stayed in prison.

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Bishop Desmond Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his opposition to apartheid. He and others worked to free Mandela and to end apartheid. Worldwide pressure forced the South African government to get rid of apartheid laws. In 1990 Mandela was released from prison. The government of F. W. de Klerk agreed to hold democratic national elections in 1993, which were the first in South Africa's history. In 1994 Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first black president. In his inaugural address he explained his hope that someday all people in South Africa would be equal.

### PROGRESS CHECK

2. *Evaluating* To what extent were the goals of Pan-Africanism realized in Africa in the years following independence?

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### Society and Culture

**GUIDING QUESTION** What factors have affected African society and culture?

Africa is a study in contrasts, or an example of a place with many differences. Old and new, indigenous and foreign, live side by side. One result is a constant tension between traditional ways and Western culture.

The influence of the West has been greater in the cities than in the countryside. The colonial presence was first and most firmly established in the cities. In fact, many cities were the direct result of colonial rule. These cities include Lagos (Nigeria), Cape Town (South Africa), Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo), and Nairobi (Kenya). Most African cities today look like cities elsewhere in the world.

About sixty percent of the population of Africa lives outside the major cities. Modern influence has had less of an impact there. Millions of people throughout Africa live much the same way as their ancestors did. They live in huts without modern plumbing and electricity.

They farm, hunt, or raise animals by traditional methods. They wear traditional clothing and practice traditional beliefs. Drought or flooding often make it difficult for rural Africans to grow crops or take care of herds. Migration to the cities for work is one solution to the problem of earning a living. This migration can be very disruptive to families and villages. Many urban people view rural people as backward and stuck in the past. Rural dwellers view the cities as corrupting and destructive to traditional African values.

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Women's roles in African society changed after independence. Women were allowed to vote and run for political office in almost all places. Some became leaders of their countries, but overall women still hold few political offices. Women fill some jobs in large numbers, such as teaching, childcare, and clerical work, but they do not have equal career opportunities. Most African women are employed in low-paid positions, such as farm laborers, factory workers, and servants. Traditional attitudes toward women still exist in many rural areas, and practices such as arranged marriages continue.

The tension between traditional and modern and between indigenous and foreign also affects African culture. Africans have kept their local artistic traditions while changing them in response to outside influences. Even so, many African artists today face a difficult choice of how to balance Western artistic techniques and training and traditional African art forms. The governments in some countries tell artists what to do. Artists are told to show scenes of traditional African life for works that are intended for sale to tourists.

African writers have often addressed the problems that modern Africans face. The conflicting demands of town versus country and indigenous versus foreign were the **themes** of most of the best-known works of the 1960s and 1970s. These themes are found in the work of Chinua Achebe (eh•CHE•beh). Achebe is a Nigerian novelist and winner of the Nobel Prize for literature in 1989. He writes about the problems of Africans who are experiencing the conflict between traditional and Western values. His most famous novel is *Things Fall Apart*. In that work, Achebe shows the simple dignity, or pride, of traditional African village life.

### PROGRESS CHECK

3. *Differentiating* How are women's roles different in rural and urban areas in Africa?

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### **Answer Key**

1. General Mobutu Sese Seko, Democratic Republic of the Congo, capitalism; Angola, Soviet-style communism; Mozambique, Soviet-style communism; Patrice Lumumba, Republic of Congo, African socialism
2. Africa has experienced many civil wars and ethnic conflicts. However, the formation of the OAU supported African unity.
3. Rural women play more traditional roles and still have arranged marriages. In urban areas, most women are employed in low-paying positions, but some hold positions of leadership and political offices.