

Teacher Overview Objectives:

Intro to Decolonization

NYS Social Studies Framework Alignment:

Key Idea	Conceptual Understanding	Objectives
10.7 DECOLONIZATION AND NATIONALISM (1900–2000): Nationalist and decolonization movements employed a variety of methods, including nonviolent resistance and armed struggle. Tensions and conflicts often continued after independence as new challenges arose. (Standards: 2, 3, 4, 5; Themes: TCC, GEO, SOC, GOV, CIV,)	10.7a Independence movements in India and Indochina developed in response to European control.	1. Define what decolonization is and explain why it occurred after WWII.

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What was decolonization? Why did it occur after WWII?

Objectives: Define what decolonization is and explain why it occurred after WWII.

Introduction:

Directions: In the space below, recall anything you associate with the words “colonization” and “imperialism”

colonization	imperialism
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After a discussion with your classmates, what are the definitions of colonization and imperialism?

Vocabulary Word	Definition
colonization	
imperialism	

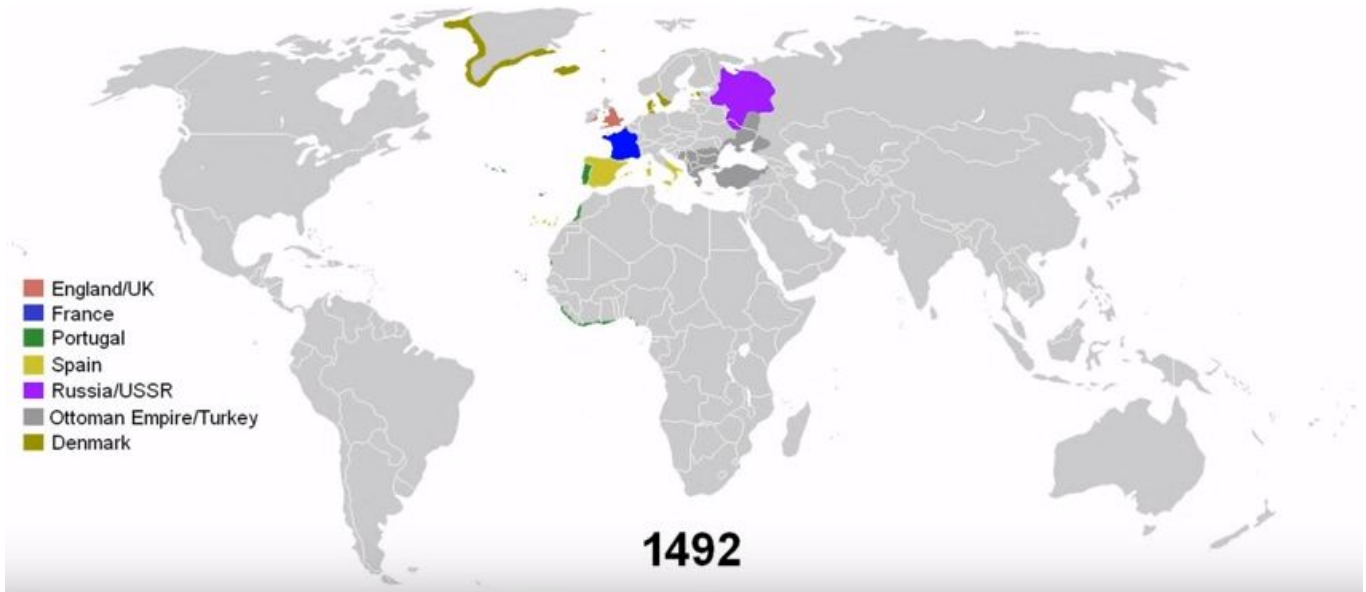
Given the definition of colonization, what do you think decolonization is?

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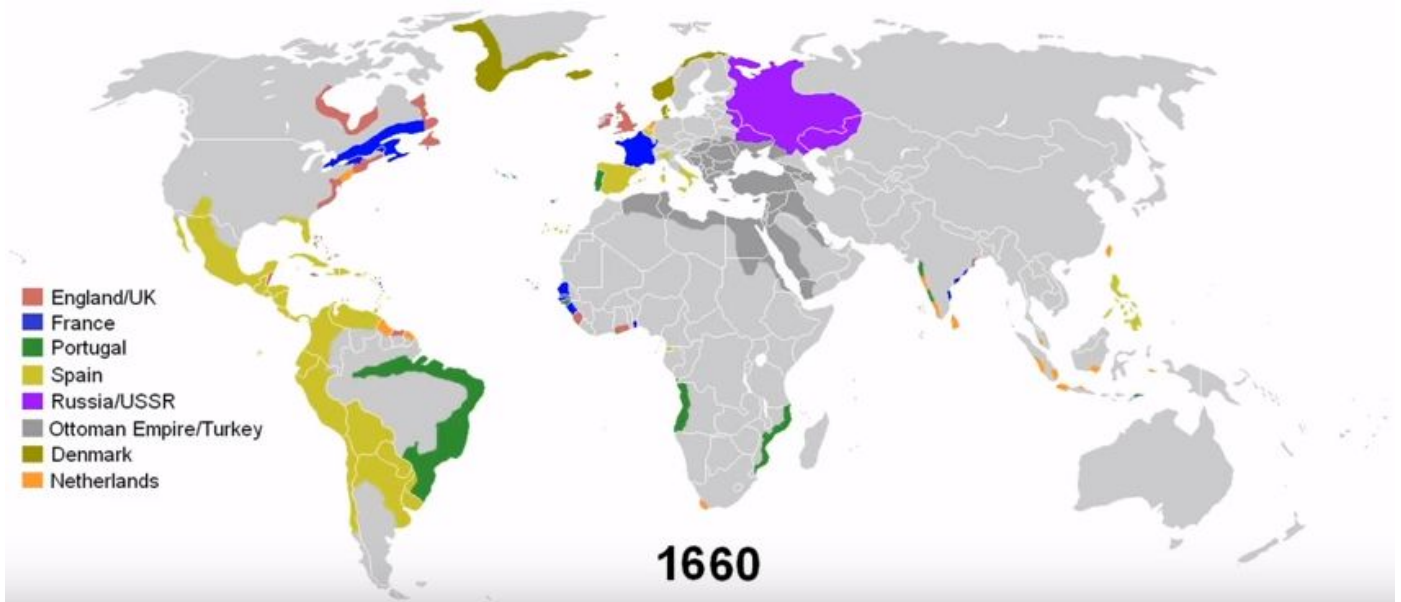
Comparative Map Activity

Directions: Examine each of the map sets below, then answer the questions that follow.

Map A



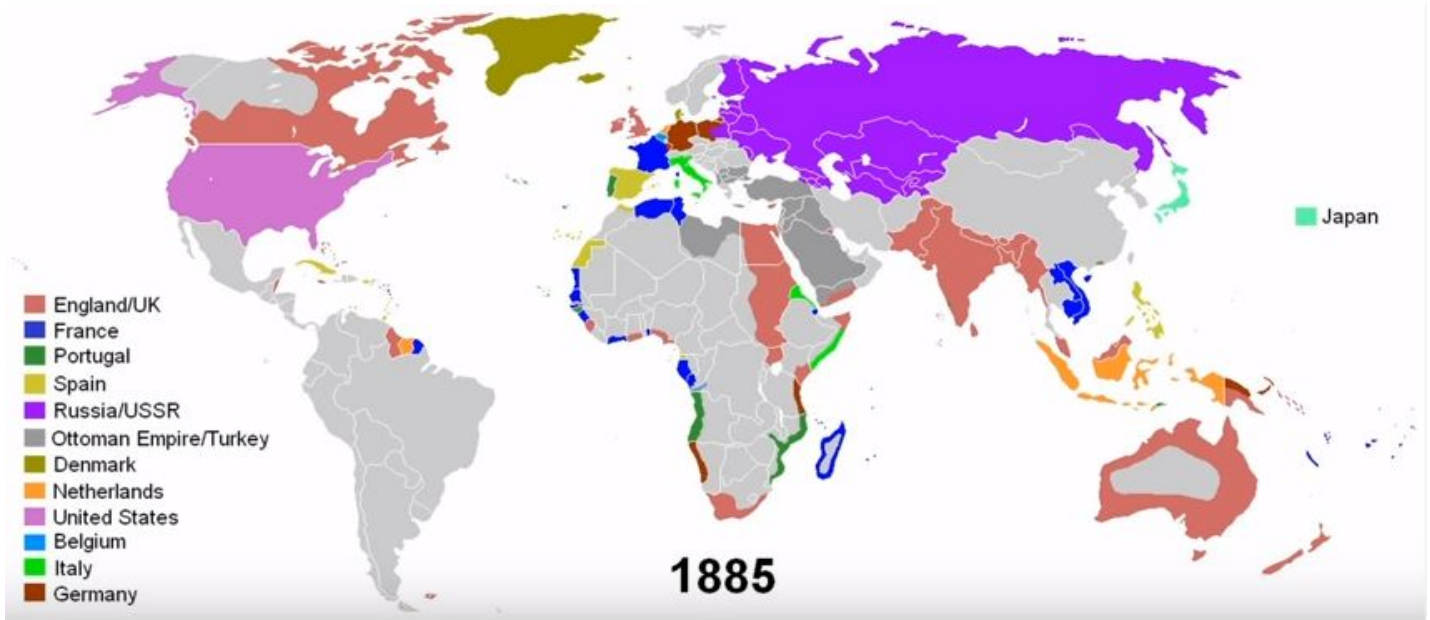
Map B



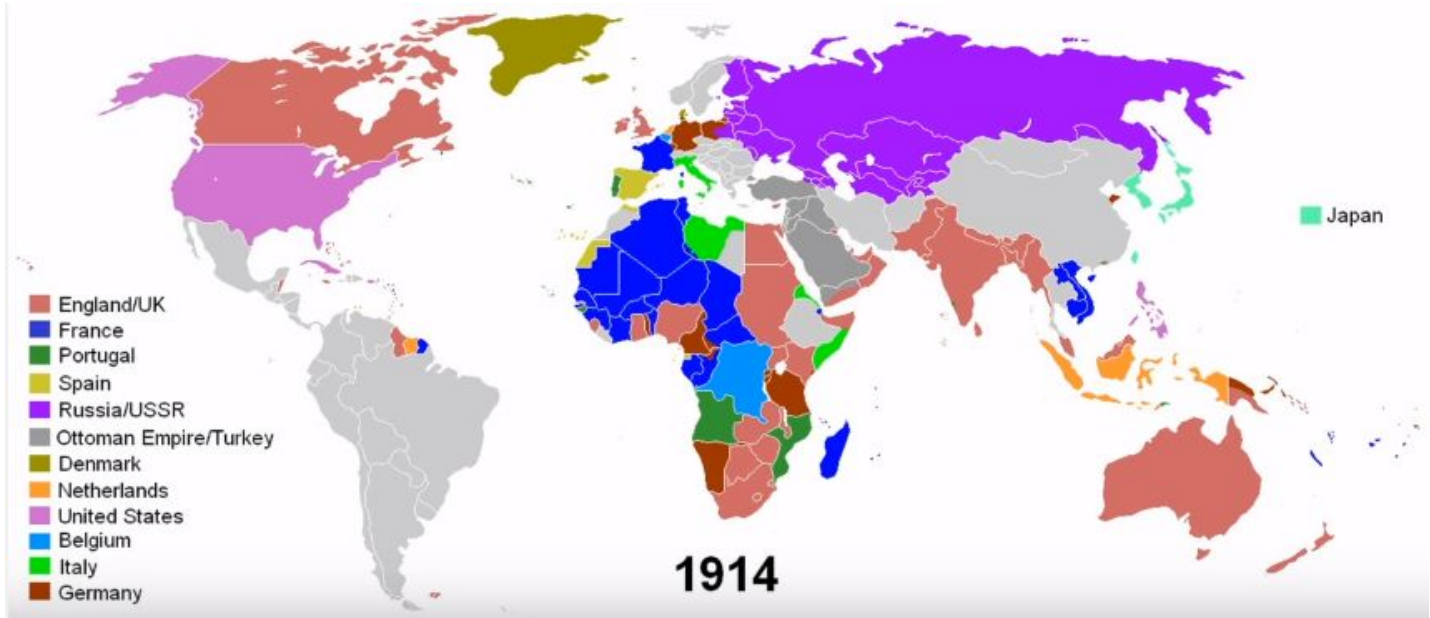
1. Based on Maps A and B, describe the changes that took place between 1492 and 1660.

2. Identify what historical events led to the changes between Maps A and B, and explain how these events caused the changes.

Map C



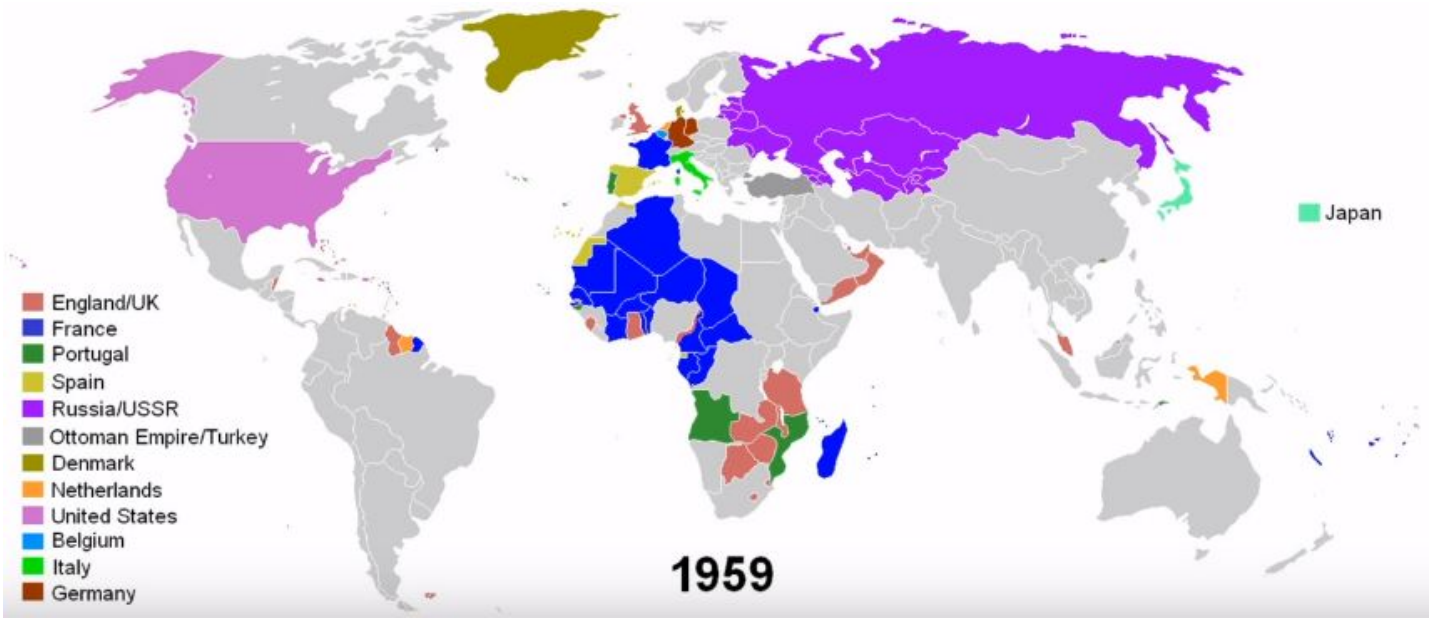
Map D



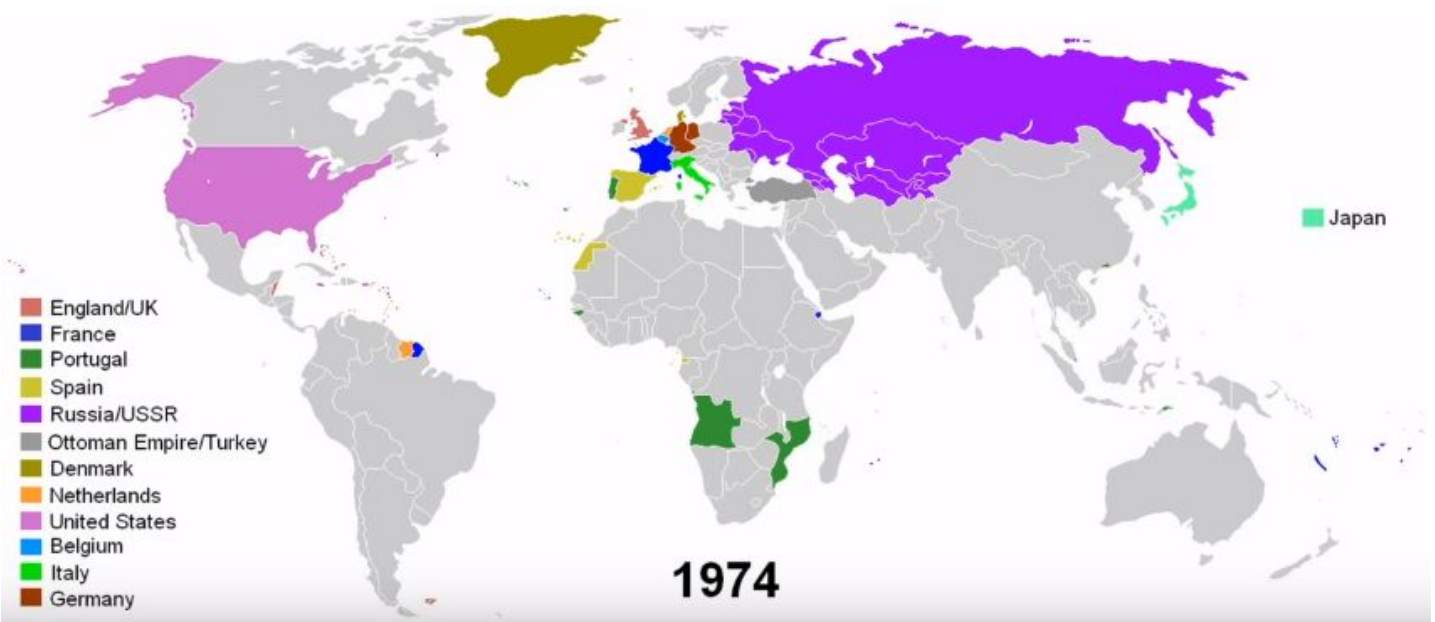
3. Based on Maps B, C, and D, describe the changes that took place between 1660 and 1914.

4. Identify what historical events led to the changes between Maps B, C, and D, and explain how the events caused these changes.

Map E



Map F



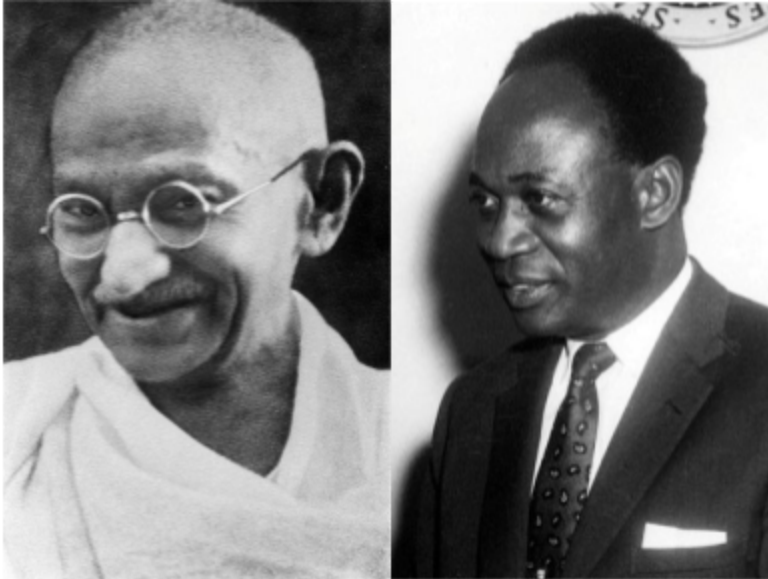
5. Based on Maps D, E, and F, describe the changes that took place between 1914 and 1974.

6. Identify what major historical events occurred between 1914 and 1974 and explain how those events could have caused the changes depicted in these maps.

Post-WWII Decolonization

Directions: Read the text below then answer the questions that follow.

Decolonization is the process of ending colonial rule and the establishing a new government, usually by the indigenous people who were colonized. The term decolonization refers to the independence of nations after World War II that were once ruled by European powers. Many of these nations are located in Africa and Asia, regions that were the focus of European imperialism starting in the late 1800s. Due to decolonization, the number of sovereign [independent] countries mushroomed from 50 to 192 from 1945 to the end of the twentieth century. In each situation when a nation gained its independence, decolonization was different. Some involved peaceful negotiation, non-violent protest or violent revolt and armed struggle.



Mohandas Gandhi, leader of India's Independence Movement

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Portrait_Gandhi.jpg

Kwame Nkrumah, leader of Ghana's Independence Movement

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah

A number of factors led to massive waves of decolonization after WWII. Though imperialism in the 19th and 20th centuries was profitable for the colonizers, it required a lot resources to keep control of faraway foreign lands. Nations like Great Britain that controlled massive empires, employed administrators and military in each colony. They also installed telegraphs, telephones, and railroad systems to improve communication between their bases. When there were uprisings, the imperial country had to expend more resources to keep control.

In addition to the drain on resources, nationalism spread throughout the colonized world. Movements led by leaders like Mohandas Gandhi in India and Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana, inspired others in their nations to defy colonial rulers and fight for their right to self-determination [the freedom to choose who will rule one's nation]. Colonial governments discriminated against the indigenous population and in most cases used economic policies that impoverished the colonized people while benefitting

Europeans.

The Great Depression and World War II hastened the process of decolonization. The Great Depression damaged the world's economy, leading to fewer resources that Western powers could use to control their colonies. At the same time, the economic distress in the colonies caused by the Great Depression made the colonized even more frustrated with their political situation.

During World War II, which was fought mostly between imperial countries, and the period just after the war, European countries were devastated and focused their efforts on rebuilding their countries. As a result, they were more willing to negotiate with colonies who demanded independence. Furthermore, public opinion started to change. After World War II, organizations like the United Nations with representatives from most countries in the world, supported the process of decolonization and took part in helping colonial governments and colonies negotiate for independence.

Sources: <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Decolonization>; <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/decolonization/>

1. What is decolonization?	2. What factors led to decolonization after WWII?