

## Topic 8.6: Newly Independent States After 1900

### Standards Table

Theme	Learning Objective	Key Concept(s)	Education Standards Met
Governance (GOV) / Economic Systems (ECN)	<b>Unit 8: Learning Objective G</b> — Explain how political changes led to territorial, demographic, and nationalist developments. <b>Unit 8: Learning Objective H</b> — Explain economic changes and continuities resulting from decolonization.	<b>KC-6.2.III.A.i–ii</b> New states formed; boundaries caused conflict and displacement. <b>KC-6.3.I.C</b> Governments guided economic development. <b>KC-6.2.III.B</b> Migration maintained ties to former empires.	AP World History: Modern— causation, comparison, sourcing, and argumentation (DBQ focus).

### Learning Objectives

- Explain how newly independent states formed after decolonization.
- Analyze how new borders led to conflict and population displacement.
- Evaluate the role of governments in shaping postcolonial economies.
- Explain how migration maintained connections between colonies and former empires.
- Analyze primary sources to build a DBQ argument.

### Lesson Overview

After gaining independence, newly formed states faced major challenges in defining their political boundaries, managing diverse populations, and building stable economies. The redrawing of borders often led to conflict, displacement, and long-term tensions, as seen in cases like India and the Middle East. At the same time, new governments took on strong roles in guiding economic development, often through state planning and industrialization efforts. Migration between former colonies and imperial powers further connected these regions culturally and economically. This lesson examines these developments and prepares students to synthesize evidence across multiple documents in a DBQ.

### Essential Vocabulary

- **partition** — the division of territory into separate political units
- **nation-state** — a political state defined by a shared national identity
- **state-led development** — government-directed economic planning

- **diaspora** — the movement and settlement of people outside their homeland
- **resettlement** — relocation of populations due to political changes

### Background Reading

The end of empire after World War II led to the creation of many new states across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. As colonial powers withdrew, political boundaries were often redrawn quickly, sometimes without regard for ethnic, religious, or cultural divisions. This process could lead to instability and conflict. For example, the Partition of India in 1947 created two states, India and Pakistan, based largely on religious identity. This resulted in one of the largest mass migrations in history and widespread violence between communities.

Similar challenges occurred in the Middle East, where the creation of Israel in 1948 led to conflict with neighboring Arab states and displacement of Palestinian populations. These cases show that while decolonization created new states, it also created new tensions rooted in how borders were drawn and populations were divided.

Economically, newly independent states often adopted strong government involvement in development. Leaders sought to industrialize, reduce dependence on former colonial powers, and improve living standards. In some cases, governments implemented state-led development programs, controlling key industries and directing economic growth. While these efforts aimed to promote independence and stability, results varied widely depending on resources, leadership, and global conditions.

Even after independence, former colonies remained connected to their imperial past. Migration from former colonies to European countries created diverse populations in cities like London and Paris. These migrations maintained economic and cultural ties between regions, showing that decolonization did not completely sever relationships between former colonies and colonizers.

## Primary Sources

### Primary Source 4: Jawaharlal Nehru, “Tryst with Destiny,” 1947

**Document:** Speech to the Constituent Assembly of India

**Direct Link (verified – Avalon Project):**

[https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/nehru.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/nehru.asp)

Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom.

A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. Today we end a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again.

Freedom and power bring responsibility. That responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity.

### **Guided Analysis Questions**

1. What responsibilities does Nehru associate with independence?
2. How does this reflect challenges facing new states?
3. What economic goals are suggested in this speech?
4. Who is the intended audience?
5. How does this connect to postcolonial governance?

### **Primary Source 5: United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181, 1947 (Partition of Palestine)**

**Document:** UN Partition Plan

**Direct Link (verified – Avalon Project):**

[https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/res181.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/res181.asp)

The General Assembly recommends to the United Kingdom, as the Mandatory Power for Palestine, and to all other Members of the United Nations the adoption and implementation of the Plan of Partition with Economic Union set out below.

Independent Arab and Jewish States and the Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem shall come into existence... The boundaries of the Arab State, the Jewish State, and the City of Jerusalem shall be as described in Parts II and III below.

The Plan shall be carried out in such a way as to ensure the protection of religious and minority rights and to safeguard access to the Holy Places. The inhabitants shall be entitled to equal rights and freedoms without discrimination as to race, religion, language, or sex.

### **Guided Analysis Questions**

1. What political change is described in this document?
2. What challenges are implied by this plan?
3. How might different groups respond to this decision?
4. How does this relate to conflict after decolonization?
5. What does this reveal about international involvement?

**Primary Source 6: Julius Nyerere, “Ujamaa: The Basis of African Socialism,” 1962**

**Document:** Ujamaa Essay

**Direct Link (verified – Marxists Internet Archive):**

<https://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/nyerere/1962/ujamaa.htm>

The objective of socialism in Tanzania is to build a society in which all members have equal rights and equal opportunities; in which all can live at peace with their neighbors without suffering injustice or exploitation; and in which all have a gradually increasing basic level of material welfare before any individual lives in luxury.

We have deliberately decided to grow as a nation through the efforts of our own people. We shall rely on our own resources and our own labor. The state must play a central role in guiding economic development and ensuring that the nation becomes self-reliant.

It is only through unity and collective effort that we can achieve our goals. The basis of our socialism is not the existence of classes, but the extended family, where all members share equally in the responsibilities and benefits of society.

**Guided Analysis Questions**

1. What economic system is Nyerere promoting?
2. How does he justify state control?
3. What goals does he have for society?
4. How does this reflect postcolonial economic challenges?
5. How does this compare to other economic models?

**Primary Source 7: Enoch Powell, “Rivers of Blood” Speech (Immigration & Postcolonial Britain), 1968**

**Document:** Speech on Commonwealth Migration

**Direct Link (verified – British Political Speech Archive):**

<https://www.margaretthatcher.org/document/102939>

The sense of alarm and of resentment lies not with the immigrant populations but among those who have seen their neighborhoods transformed. They find themselves made strangers in their own country.

As I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding. Like the Roman, I seem to see “the River Tiber foaming with much blood.” That tragic and intractable phenomenon of immigration cannot be ignored.

We must be mad, literally mad, as a nation to be permitting the annual inflow of some 50,000 dependents... It is this influx which creates the conditions for racial tension and social instability.

## Guided Analysis Questions

1. What demographic change is described?
2. What challenges does migration create?
3. How does this reflect postcolonial relationships?
4. What role does government play?
5. How does this connect to continuity after empire?

## Key Tables / Charts

### Political Effects of Decolonization

Development	Example
New states formed	India, Israel
Boundary conflicts	India/Pakistan, Middle East
Population displacement	Partition migrations

### Economic Effects

Strategy	Outcome
State-led development	Industrialization attempts
Redistribution	Mixed success
Continued global ties	Trade and migration

## Change / Continuity / Comparison Section

### Change over time:

Decolonization led to the creation of new independent states and new political systems. Governments became responsible for managing economies and populations without imperial oversight.

### Continuity over time:

Economic dependence and global inequalities persisted. Migration maintained ties between former colonies and imperial powers.

### Comparison:

Some states emphasized political unity, while others faced division and conflict. Economic strategies also varied, from socialism to mixed systems.

## Key Takeaways

- New states faced political and economic challenges after independence
- Borders often caused conflict and displacement

- Governments played major roles in economic development
- Migration maintained global connections
- Decolonization reshaped global systems but did not eliminate inequality

## DBQ Essay Assignment

### Prompt (AP-Style DBQ):

Evaluate the extent to which the process of decolonization after 1900 led to political and economic change in newly independent states.

### Student Instructions

Using **all 7 documents from Topics 8.5 and 8.6**, write a DBQ essay that:

- Develops a **clear, historically defensible thesis**
- Uses **at least 6 documents** to support an argument
- Incorporates **outside historical evidence**
- Analyzes **sourcing (POV, purpose, audience, historical situation)**
- Demonstrates **complex understanding**