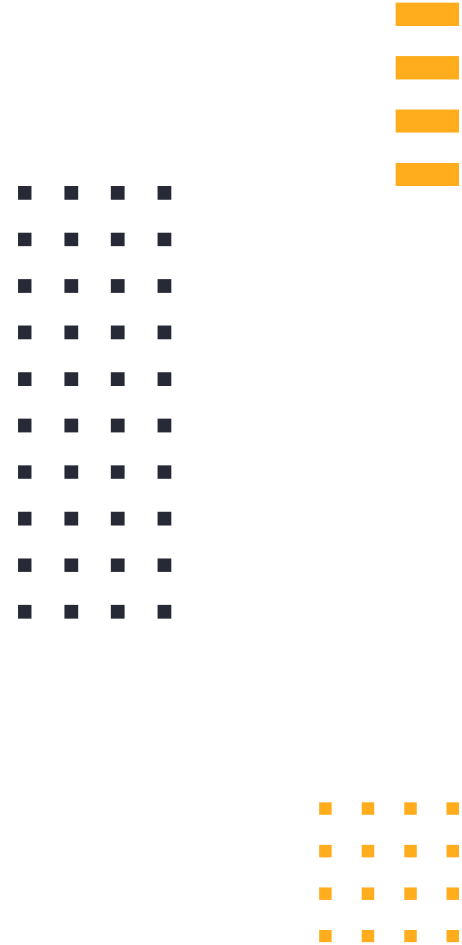




4.2 What events have happened in the past that influence the modern map?



Objective and Essential Learning

4.2 Explain the processes that have shaped contemporary political geography.

- The concepts of sovereignty, nation-states, and self-determination shape the contemporary world.
- Colonialism, imperialism, independence movements, and devolution along national lines have influenced contemporary political boundaries.



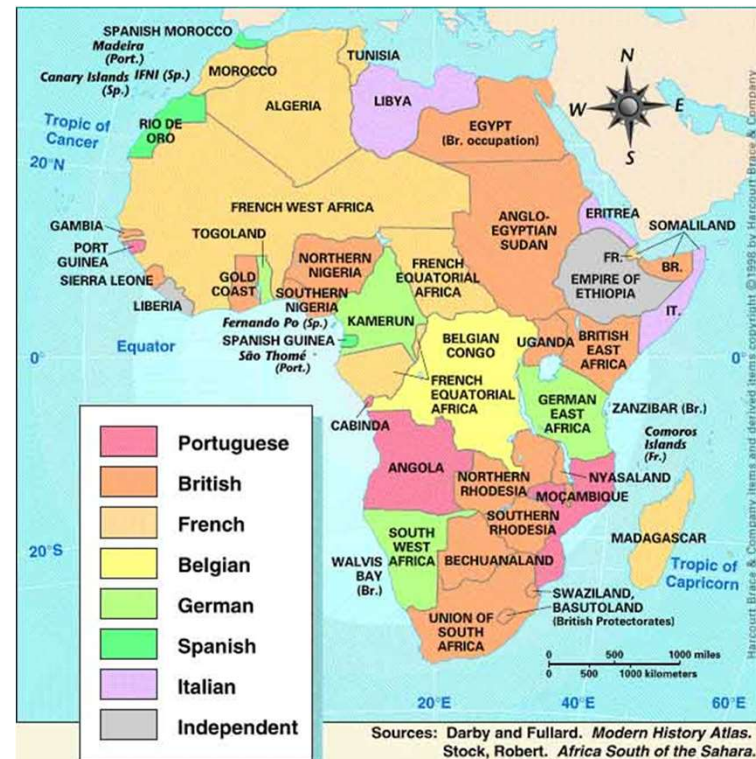
Key Concepts

Sovereignty	A state's authority to control its territory and govern itself.
Nation - State	The territory occupied by a particular nation of people is the same as the recognized political boundary of that state.
Self-Determination	The right of all people to govern themselves. Usually a nation, ethnicity, or former colony wants to govern themselves and establish sovereignty over their own state. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oftentimes may result in independence movements or devolution.
Devolution	Due to centrifugal forces, power is shifted from the central government or administration to regional authorities which are usually reflective of nations.

What events have happened in the past that influence the modern map?

Berlin Conference (1884)

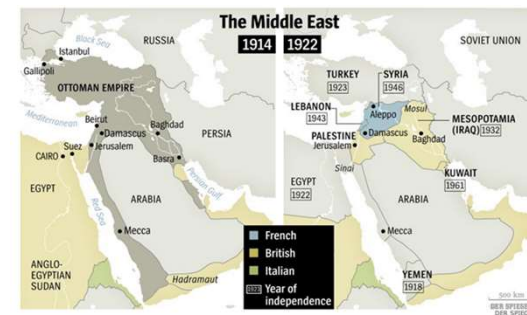
- European powers gathered to divide up the continent of Africa and establish borders.
- Europeans drew political boundaries for their own benefits without regard to tribal cultures and distributions. Over time this causes conflict and violence and impacted the development of African countries and other colonies.
- Colonialism & Imperialism



What events have happened in the past that influence the modern map?

The Treaty of Versailles (1920)

- This treaty was signed to end WWI. It redrew boundaries in Europe and Southwest Asia.
- The German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires were broken up and organized into individual states with the intention of creating nation-states.
- This worked in some places and resulted in further divisions in others (specifically the Middle East).



Map: The Middle East before and after WWI.



What events have happened in the past that influence the modern map?

Establishment of Israel (1948)

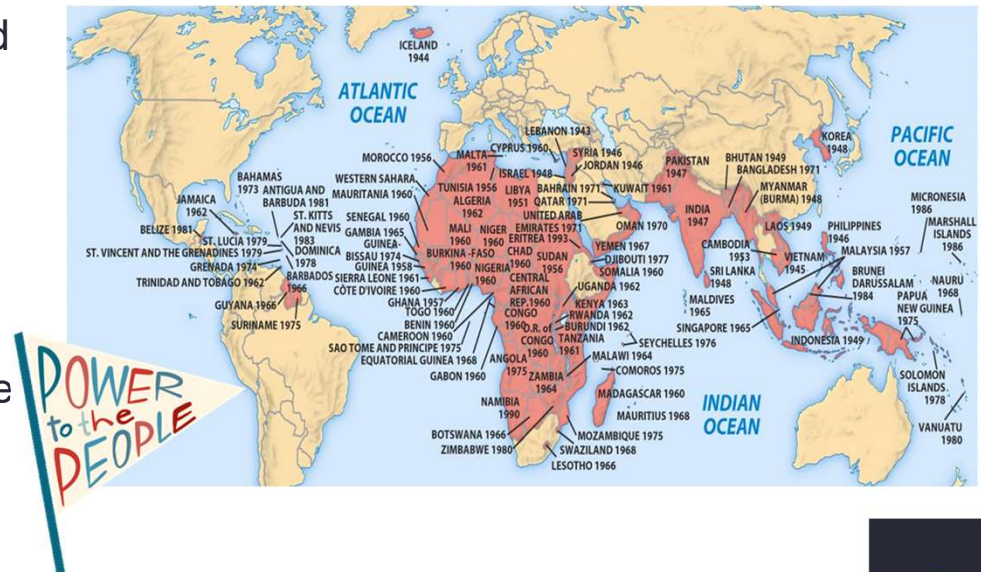
- Palestine, a former British colony, was established as the state of Israel after the Holocaust.
- Self-determination for Arabs across Palestine rose and conflict has ebbed and flowed since the state was officially established.
- Palestine are recognized as a stateless nation by many countries throughout the world.



What events have happened in the past that influence the modern map?

Decolonization & Independence Movements (1945-1990)

- After the development of the United Nations and the end of WWII, the movement of decolonization began around the world.
- Resistance to colonial power and political self-determination gained momentum and new countries were formed out of previous colonial empires.
- Throughout African, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Latin America



What events have happened in the past that influence the modern map?

Fall of the Soviet Union (1991)

- The fall of communism and the Soviet Union ended the Cold War and led to the creation of newly independent states, and changed the world balance of power.
- Eastern Europe was less influenced by the Soviet Union. (Yugoslavia, East Germany, Poland, etc)
- New states include: Ukraine, Estonia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Moldova, and the 'Stans



Imperialism – Berlin Conference

Directions:

Part 1: Choose a color to represent each item within the key. Then, color each of the colonies of Africa listed on the right, using the color key you created.

Part 2: Read the article on the Berlin Conference and then answer the attached questions