

## DBQ 21: DECOLONIZATION AND REVOLUTION 1945-1975

### Historical Context

After World War II, major independence movements emerged. Revolutions also occurred. Their shared goal was to change the leadership of countries such as India, Vietnam, Cuba, China, and Ghana. Demands for independence swept the colonies of Africa. At the same time, revolutions transformed Cuba and China. Strong leaders shaped these movements for independence and change.

■ **Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying documents in Part A. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of each document and the author's point of view. Be sure to do each of the following steps:

1. Carefully read the document-based question. Consider what you already know about this topic. How would you answer the question if you had no documents to examine?
2. Read each document carefully, underlining key phrases and words that address the document-based question. You may also wish to use the margin to make brief notes. Answer the questions that follow each document before moving on to the next document.
3. Based on your own knowledge and on the information found in the documents, formulate a thesis that directly answers the document-based question.
4. Organize supportive and relevant information into a brief outline.
5. Write a well-organized essay proving your thesis. You should present your essay logically. Include information both from the documents and from your own knowledge beyond the documents.

**Question:** What were the methods and roles of leaders and organizations in the movement for independence and change in the period between 1945 and 1975? Evaluate these methods and roles.

### PART A

The following documents provide information about the revolutions and independence movements that swept the world after World War II. Examine each document carefully. In the space provided, answer the question or questions that follow each document.

(continued)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **DBQ 21: DECOLONIZATION AND REVOLUTION 1945-1975**

### **Document 1**

This excerpt is adapted from the "Declaration Against Colonialism," which was adopted by the United Nations in 1960.

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the determination proclaimed by the peoples of the world in the Charter of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person . . . , Solemnly proclaims the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms . . . And to this end Declares that:

1. The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation . . . is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and co-operation.
2. All peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

What was the main idea of this U.N. declaration? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Document 2**

The following is an excerpt adapted from the Vietnamese Declaration of Independence, written by Ho Chi Minh in 1945.

The whole Vietnamese people, animated by a common purpose, are determined to fight to the bitter end against any attempt by the French colonialists to reconquer their country.

What course of action did Ho Chi Minh recommend to the Vietnamese people?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(continued)*

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#### Document 3

This excerpt was written by Mahatma Gandhi. In this adaptation, he describes his method for fighting for the independence of India.

Passive [nonviolent] resistance is a method of securing rights by personal suffering; it is the reverse of resistance by arms. . . . If I do not obey the law and accept the penalty for its breach [breaking], I use soul-force. It involves sacrifice of self.

Gandhi led the Salt March of 1930, in which he used passive resistance. In describing this protest, Gandhi said the following:

If the awakening of the people in the country is true and real, the salt law is as good as abolished. [He then raised a lump of salt.] With this, I am shaking the foundations of the British Empire.

What method of working toward independence did Gandhi recommend to the Indian people?

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What was Gandhi's goal? \_\_\_\_\_

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(continued)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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### Document 4

These are the words of Nelson Mandela in 1994. He fought tirelessly for the end of apartheid in South Africa.

During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African People. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

What change did Mandela recommend for South Africa? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Document 5

Kwame Nkrumah was the leader in the fight for Ghana's independence. He described the movement with these words in 1965.

Independence for the Gold Coast [Ghana] was my aim. It was a colony, and I have always regarded colonialism as the policy by which a foreign power binds territories to herself by political ties, with the primary object of promoting her own economic advantage.

... Thus we have witnessed the greatest awakening ever seen on this earth of suppressed and exploited peoples against the powers that have kept them in subjection. This, without a doubt, is the most significant happening of the twentieth century.

What was the "most significant happening of the twentieth century," according to Nkrumah?

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Why was he opposed to colonialism? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

### Document 6

Jomo Kenyatta was the leader of the fight for independence for Kenya. He became Kenya's first president. In 1964, he said the following about this fight.

The land is ours. When Europeans came, they kept us back and took our land. The freedom tree can only grow when you pour blood on it.

Why did Kenyatta call for independence? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Document 7

This excerpt is adapted from a speech given by Mao Zedong in 1945.

Our aim . . . is to build up the confidence of the whole [Communist] Party and the entire people in the certain triumph of the revolution. . . . We must . . . raise the political consciousness of the entire people so that they may willingly and gladly fight together with us for victory. We should fire the whole people with the conviction that China belongs not to the reactionaries but to the Chinese people. . . . We firmly believe that, led by the Chinese Communist Party . . . the Chinese people will achieve complete victory.

What was Mao Zedong attempting to do in this speech? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What method of change did Mao recommend? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Document 8

This excerpt is adapted from a speech Fidel Castro gave in his defense at a trial in 1953. In this speech, Castro rallied the support of the Cuban people to fight against the dictator.

When we speak of struggle, the people means the vast unredeemed masses, to whom all make promises and whom all deceive; we mean the people who yearn for a better, more dignified and more just nation . . . people who, to attain these changes, are ready to give even the very last breath of their lives—when they believe in something or in someone. . . .

These are the people, the ones who know misfortune and, therefore, are capable of fighting with limitless courage! To the people whose desperate roads through life have been paved with the bricks of betrayal we . . . say . . . Here you have it, fight for it with all your might so that liberty and happiness may be yours.

Which “people” did Fidel Castro feel were the basis of the Cuban Revolution?

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### **PART B**

What were the methods and roles of leaders and organizations in the movement for independence and change in the period between 1945 and 1975? Evaluate these methods and roles.