Chapter Summary

Independence and Nationalism in the Developing World

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS
How can political change cause conflict?
How can political relationships affect economic relationships?

Beginning in the mid-twentieth century, colonial empires came to an end in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. However, such changes did not mean that peoples in these regions enjoyed political stability and prosperity. Many struggled with war, the effects of population growth, famine, and dictatorial regimes.

South and Southeast Asia
• After independence, British India split into two nations—India (Hindu) and Pakistan (Muslim).
• Jawaharlal Nehru led India after independence, and his daughter, Indira Gandhi, became prime minister after his death; Mother Teresa cared for the poor.
• East Pakistan split from West Pakistan to become the new nation of Bangladesh.
• The Republic of Indonesia became independent of the Netherlands.
• Democratic reform movements in Southeast Asia often failed.

The Middle East
• Israelis and Arabs have often been in conflict since 1948 over the Jewish state of Israel.
• A blockade of Israeli shipping by Egypt’s Gamal Abdel Nassar led to the Six-Day War in which Israel tripled its size; Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir led Israel when Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Yom Kippur.
• A Muslim cleric, the Ayatollah Khomeini, opposed the shah and U.S. influence in Iran; Iran became an Islamic republic in 1979.
• Internal and external groups fought for control of Afghanistan.
• Conflicts in the region led to the Iran-Iraq War and the Gulf War.
• Conservative religious forces in the Middle East tried to replace Western values and culture.

Africa
• African countries faced political, economic and social challenges after gaining independence.
• Dictators fell in several African countries, and apartheid ended in South Africa in the latter part of the twentieth century.
• Constant tension between old and new, native and foreign, affects African society.
• African women have made political and economic gains, but inequalities remain.
• African artists search for ways to balance Western techniques with traditional art.

Latin America
• Latin American countries continued to be economically dependent on the United States.
• During the Cold War many Latin American countries were ruled by dictators, some of which were overthrown after periods of civil war and violence.
• Fearing the spread of communism, the United States intervened in Latin American countries.
• Fidel Castro seized control of Cuba, and Soviet aid to Cuba caused conflict with the United States.
• Twentieth-century Latin American writers and artists explored new themes and techniques and often expressed the hopes of the people in their work.