Many countries achieved their independence after WWII.

**NATIONALISM IN INDIA**

In India, a young Hindu named Mohandas Gandhi began a movement of nonviolent resistance and Civil disobedience to improve the lives of India’s poor and gain freedom from British rule. He led a salt march with thousands of followers in 1930 to protest the British monopoly and taxes on an essential need, salt. Gandhi’s followers called him Mahatma meaning “great soul”. He didn’t believe in fighting and war; his peaceful ways eventually led to Indian independence from the British in August 1947. India was partitioned into two countries, one Hindu (India) and one Muslim (Pakistan). As with colonial Africa, this partition divided families and left some Hindus in Pakistan and vice versa. His method of civil disobedience, the act of actively refusing to follow laws in the form of nonviolent protest, took the form of peaceful protests, marches, hunger strikes, and sit-in. His methods influenced and inspired later activists like Martin Luther King Jr in the US.

**JAPAN AFTER THE WORLD WAR**

WWII had left Japan crippled; much of the city of Tokyo had been destroyed, and agricultural production was down. After Japan’s unconditional surrender in August 1945, Allied forces- led by the US- occupied Japan to distribute food, prevent Japan from developing its military, and also to make Japan more like the west. In the spring of 1952, Allied occupation officially ended. Iwo Jima remained under US control until 1968 and Okinawa remained under US control until 1972. Japan was once again independent. Beginning in 1949, by selectively borrowing Western ideas and technology, Japan was able to recover, rebuild, and emerge even stronger than before. Japan soon had one of the fastest growing economies after the war. Its manufacturing, trade, car industry, and electronics development were so great that its electronics industry surpassed America’s by the 1970s. Tokyo became a populous, vibrant, exciting – and very modern – city.

**INDEPENDENCE FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

On the African continent, the years after WWII were a time of liberation from colonial rule. Libya became the first newly independent nation after WWII in 1951, and many countries – 49 more including Ghana, Kenya, and Zimbabwe- would follow. Some African leaders believed in Western style capitalism, other in Soviet style communism. Still others wanted “African” socialism based on the traditions of the communities, in which wealth would be put into the hands of the people. European imperialism had divided the continent in random ways and created borders that often caused big problems when nations became independent.

Pan Africanism is the concept of uniting all Africans regardless of national boundaries. It led to the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, which supported African groups fighting against colonialism. The OAU became the African Union (AU) in 2002, which promotes democracy and economic growth in Africa. Most of the new African leaders came from the urban middle class and had studied in the West; they believed Western democracy was a useful model for rule. But some new nations fell under military dictatorships, or worse.

In South Africa, Apartheid separated whites and blacks, and only whites (a minority of the population) could vote. Apartheid is a system of racial segregation in which South Africans were assigned to one of 4 groups (white, black, mixed race, or Asian); the majority (blacks) had fewer rights than the minority (whites). Blacks began to protest these laws in the 1950s and 190s. In 1960, 69 people who had been peacefully marching were killed by police in the Sharpeville massacre. Evidence shows that most of them had been shot in the back, meaning that they weren’t approaching the police or acting aggressively. Then the government arrested Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1962. He was sentenced to life in prison in 1963. Mandela was kept in a high security prison before finally being released in 1990. That’s 27 years later. In 1994, when the government agreed to hold democratic elections for the first time ever, Nelson Mandela became the first president of South Africa to be elected by the majority of all people, black and white. Mandela’s presidency and the work of human rights activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu finally helped end apartheid.

“*It always seems impossible until it’s done*”- Nelson Mandela

***Check Your Understanding- respond to the questions on a separate sheet of paper.***

1. What movement did Mohandas Gandhi begin?
2. In what year did India finally gain independence?
   1. 1945
   2. 1947
   3. 1949
   4. 1952
3. Following India’s independence from Great Britain, two countries were formed. Name them and the religions they follow.
4. Libya became an independent African nation in
   1. 1945
   2. 1947
   3. 1951
   4. 1959
5. What is Pan Africanism?
6. What was apartheid?
7. True or False: Archbishop Desmond Tutu was held in high security prison for nearly 27 years.
8. The first president elected by a majority of all the people in South Africa, regardless of race was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.