ISRAEL'S IN VolVEMENT IN WARS

A Homeland for Jews

Israel is another name for Palestine. Remember, Jews lived in Palestine for thousands of years. When Palestine was taken by the Romans, the Jews moved to other parts of the world. During World War II, Hitler killed six million Jews. The killing of the Jews by Hitler is called the Holocaust. After the war, many Jews needed a homeland. They wanted Palestine.

In 1947, the United Nations said that one part of Palestine should be a homeland for Jews. In 1948, the nation of Israel became that homeland. The United States supported Israel as a protected homeland for Jews who had been persecuted in other countries.

Jews and Arabs Fight over Palestine

In 1948, however, the Arabs and Jews in Israel began to fight. Many Arabs left Israel. These refugees went to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and other countries. After the war, these refugees wanted to return to Israel. But Israel refused. Some of these refugees made a group called the Palestine Liberation Organization (the PLO). The PLO is called a terrorist group because it makes small attacks on Israeli towns and settlements. The PLO wants to get Israel back for the Arabs.

Enemies of Israel

In addition to the PLO, other Arab countries are enemies of Israel. Between 1948 and 1973, Israel fought four wars with Arab neighbors. Israel defeated its enemies all four times. Israel also took more land. It also took over the city of Jerusalem, which is a sacred city for three religious groups - Jews, Moslems and Christians.

To fight the Israelis, the Arab countries used oil as a weapon. They stopped selling oil to Israel's friends. But in 1979, Anwar Sadat, President of Egypt, made peace with Israel. Some Arabs thought Sadat was a traitor to the Arab countries.

Trouble in Lebanon

Lebanon, to the north of Israel, also has a lot of fighting. One reason is that the Christian and Moslem people in Lebanon do not get along. There is a civil war in Lebanon today. Another reason is the refugees from Palestine. For more than 30 years, PLO guerrillas have come to Lebanon. From Lebanon they attacked Israel. When Israel retaliated against the PLO guerrillas in Lebanon, it hurt the Lebanese people too. So Syria sent soldiers to Lebanon to try for peace. The United Nations sent soldiers too. But Lebanon is still in turmoil today.
Questions:
1. When and why was the state of Israel created? _________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. Why did the creation of Israel lead to conflict/war with the Arabs? _________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. What was the aim of the PLO? ________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

4. Why is the PLO considered a terrorist organization? _____________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

5. Describe the purpose and weapons of terrorists? _________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

6. What issues and events have increased the turmoil and unrest in the Middle East? ______
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

7. What could be done by either side to ease tensions and reduce terrorism? ___________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
A great liberation took place in Africa following World War II. Slowly at first, and then with increasing speed, the people of Africa regained their independence.

1. Location On the map, locate (a) Egypt, (b) Angola, (c) Tanzania, (d) Zaire, (e) South Africa.

2. Place (a) Which nations were independent before 1945? (b) Which nations regained independence before 1960? (c) When did Zimbabwe gain independence?

3. Critical Thinking Drawing Conclusions Based on the map, what conclusion can you draw about the fate of European colonial empires in Africa?
Routes to Freedom

During the great liberation, each African nation had its own leaders and it own story. Here, we will look at three examples: Ghana in West Africa, Kenya in East Africa, and Algeria in North Africa.

Ghana. The first African nation south of the Sahara to win freedom was the British colony of Gold Coast. In the late 1940s, young Kwame Nkrumah (kwah MEE ee khI KROO muh) was impatient with Britain's policy of gradual movement toward independence. Nkrumah had spent time in the United States, where he was inspired by the Pan-Africanist Marcus Garvey and other civil rights leaders. He also studied the nonviolent methods of Mohandas Gandhi, the Indian leader.

Back in Gold Coast, Nkrumah organized a radical political party. Through strikes and boycotts, he tried to win concessions from Britain. But when mass actions led to riots, Nkrumah was imprisoned. Still, his "Positive Action" movement pressed on.

In 1957, Gold Coast finally won independence. Nkrumah, who had emerged from prison to become prime minister of the new nation, named it Ghana, after the ancient West African empire. * The symbolism was clear. Gold Coast reflected European interests in Africa. Ghana linked the new nation with the African past that had been denied under colonialism. Before the arrival of the Europeans, Nkrumah said, "our ancestors had attained a great empire .... Thus we may take pride in the name of Ghana, not out of romanticism, but as an inspiration for the future."

Kenya. In Kenya, freedom came only with armed struggle. White settlers had carved out farms in the fertile highlands, where they displaced African farmers, mostly Kikuyu (kih KOO yoo). Settlers considered Kenya their homeland and had passed laws to ensure their domination. They feared giving up any power to the African majority.

*Ancient Ghana was located to the north and west of modern Ghana.

Even before World War II, Jomo Kenyatta had become a leading spokesman for the Kikuyu. "The land is ours," he said. "When Europeans came, they took our land." Kenyatta supported nonviolent methods to end oppressive laws.

Other, more radical leaders turned to guerrilla warfare. They burned farms and destroyed livestock, hoping to scare whites into leaving. By 1952, they began to attack settlers and Africans who worked with the colonial rulers. The British called the guerrillas Mau Mau and pictured them as savages. To stop the violence, the British arrested Kenyatta and forced thousands of Kikuyu into concentration camps. Kikuyu casualties rose when British bombers pounded Mau Mau fighters armed mostly with swords.

The rebels were crushed, but not the freedom movement. Eventually, the British released Kenyatta, whose years in prison had made him a national hero. In 1963, he became the first prime minister of an independent Kenya.

Algeria. From 1954 to 1962, a longer and even costlier war of liberation raged in Algeria. During the 1830s, France had conquered Algeria after a brutal struggle. Over the years, the French had come to see Algeria, located just across the Mediterranean from France, as part of their country. Along with the million Europeans who had settled there, they were determined to keep the Arab-Berber people of Algeria from winning independence.

Muslim Algerian nationalists set up the National Liberation Front (FLN). In 1954, it turned to guerrilla warfare to win freedom. France, which had just lost Vietnam, was unwilling to retreat from Algeria. As the fighting escalated, a half-million French troops went to Algeria. Thousands were killed, but hundreds of thousands of Algerians died during the long war that followed.
HOW DID AFRICAN NATIONS GAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE?

**Directions:** Answer questions 1 – 3 based on the map on page 925. Then begin reading from *Routes to Freedom* until *Algeria*. Answer questions 7 - 10

1. How many African nations were independent before WWII ended?

2. How many African nations remain under European control today?

3. When did Ghana, Kenya, and Algeria gain their independence?

4. Why is Kwame Nkrumah considered a hero to many Africans?

5. How was Nkrumah’s methods similar to Dr. Martin Luther King’s?

6. Why did Nkrumah change the name of his nation? (USE YOUR OWN WORDS!)

7. How was Kenya’s struggle for independence different from Ghana’s?

8. How was Kenya’s struggle for independence similar to the United States’?

9. Who was the leader of Kenya’s independence movement?