

Outcomes of Decolonization

- Some former colonies had economic success and political stability after decolonization – India, Singapore, and Indonesia are three examples.
 - However, many colonies struggled, facing civil wars, crumbling infrastructures, and continued economic hardships. Malawi and Zaire are but two examples in Africa alone.
 - One continuity over the centuries has been Africa's lack of industrial production. It remained an exporter primarily of natural resources such as oil, gold, and other minerals.

The Unique Case of South Africa

- South Africa wasn't a colony per se. It became an independent country in 1920, but it retained strong political and economic ties to Britain.
 - South Africa had a long-standing policy of white minority rule called apartheid. Under apartheid, whites of Dutch, German, and British descent had full political rights, but the majority black and mixed-race population had none for most of the twentieth century.
 - The policy had originated with European settlements there in 1652 but was made in to law in 1948.

The Unique Case of South Africa

- A series of laws in the 1950s reinforced apartheid.
 - Different races were assigned to specific residential and business sections in cities and to specific job categories.
 - Greater restrictions curbed the already limited rights of black Africans to own land and to participate in the government.
 - Most forms of social contact were prohibited between the races.
 - Public facilities were segregated.
 - Separate standards of education were established.



The Unique Case of South Africa

- Apartheid policies included government suppression of opposition and severe reprisals for ongoing resistance – which was often violent – by black political groups, with some support from sympathetic whites.
- The international community condemned apartheid in South Africa in 1961.
- By the late 1980s, Britain, the U.S., and more than 20 other countries imposed economic sanctions on it.
- Both internal and external pressures caused South African President F.W. De Klerk to begin to abolish some apartheid policies in the early 1990s.



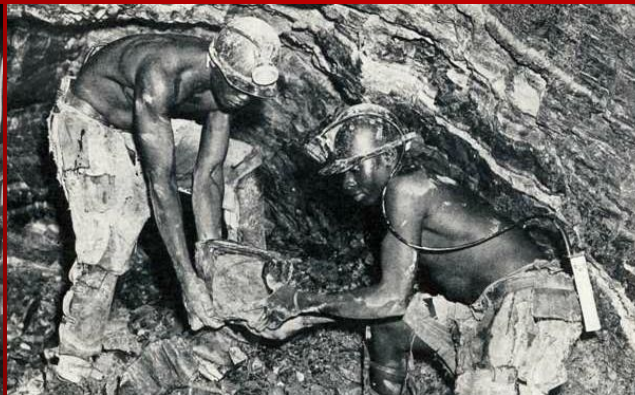
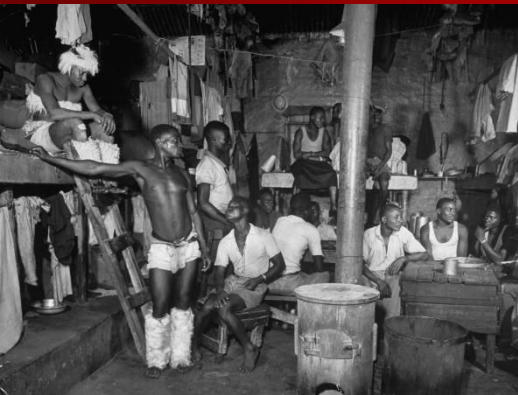
The Unique Case of South Africa

- In 1994, a new constitution was in place, with free general elections held for the first time in its history.
 - Nelson Mandela, who had been a leading protester of apartheid and had therefore been imprisoned for 27 years, was elected South Africa's first black president.
 - Mandel and de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for their efforts to end apartheid.
- In the following years, the government struggled to find effective policies to manage South Africa's new challenges in the face of national political and social changes, as well as changes within Africa.



The Unique Case of South Africa

- Adding to the difficulties was the long-standing problem of migration and xenophobia (fear or hatred of foreigners).
 - Up until 1991, the government had required that official immigrants have specific abilities and characteristics that enabled them to assimilate into its white culture, which blatantly excluded all black Africans.
 - However, South Africa had a history of allowing huge numbers of people from neighboring African countries to enter the country as migrant workers (i.e. cheap labor) which the country relied on for its gold and diamond mining industries as well as commercial farming.



The Unique Case of South Africa

- Widespread unemployment (among the highest in the world – 22% for all workers and 41% for black Africans) and competition for jobs in the 1980s and 1990s led to tension between South Africans and other African migrant workers.
- Between 1994 and 2010, the South African government arrested and deported nearly 2 million migrant workers to bordering nations against the worldwide human rights expectations of the new government.
- Despite international pressure, the government has failed to implement meaningful changes and incidents of violence against foreign workers and shopkeepers have continued.

Changing Latin America

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Economic Imperialism

- ▶ L.A. had been dominated by European powers since the Age of Exploration, and it then had to deal with constant U.S. intervention as the U.S. became more and more imperialistic.
 - Some economists argue that L.A. economies were damaged by their dependence on industrial nations.
- ▶ In the wake of WWII, many L.A. countries fought vigorously against U.S. and other foreign influences, and especially against U.S. intervention in their politics and economies.
 - Most L.A. countries had enormous foreign debts.
 - Countries such as Brazil and Argentina worked to redistribute land and resources

Brazil

Brazil attempted to create a nationalized economy under the leadership of Getúlio Vargas (1930-1945).

- Industrialization occurred rapidly, supported with high high tariffs on imports.
- ▶ President Juscelino Kubitschek continued the policy, and through heavy borrowing from international powers, attempted to achieve “Fifty Years’ Progress in Five.”
- ▶ In the 1960s, President João Goulart attempted to promote greater social equality by breaking up large estates and allowing those of lower classes, even those who were illiterate, to vote. The result was a conservative backlash that resulted in military takeover in 1964.



Argentina

- ▶ Juan Perón won the presidency in 1946 on the basis of his opposition to foreign, especially U.S., intervention.
- ▶ His wife, Eva, was herself from the lower classes, and she personally and very publicly implemented aspects of his program of assistance to the poor.
- ▶ Perón also advocated industrialization and protection of workers' rights.
- ▶ Under Perón, the government controlled the banking, railroad, shipping, and other industries, and he was in many ways an authoritarian leader.
- ▶ While the couple was very popular with the lower classes of Argentina, others saw them as opportunistic and believed that they sympathized with Fascism. The military overthrew Peron in 1955 and he went into exile in Spain.



Economic Imperialism

- ▶ During the recession of the 1970s and 1980s, the debt problem became worse.
 - Despite the movements to separate L.A. from U.S. interference, economic issues continued to force many L.A. areas to accept aid and thus also to accept U.S. terms.
 - U.S. investments in industries resulted in American control over the copper mining industry in Chile and Peru through the Anaconda and Kennecott companies, the oil industry in Mexico, Peru, and Bolivia, and the fruit industry through the United Fruit Company in Guatemala.
- ▶ Further U.S. involvement came as a result of the growing influence of Marxism in L.A., with the U.S. supporting rebellions against many governments.

Chile

- ▶ Chile suffered from serious economic difficulties, including the decline of the copper industry, which provided the bulk of the exports in Chile.
- ▶ In 1970, Salvador Allende was elected president and quickly moved to nationalize the copper industry, largely owned by Americans, and socialized other industries.
 - In response, U.S. President Nixon cut off U.S. aid to Chile
 - Acting on Marxist ideology, Allende also broke up estates. As in many other L.A. countries, conservative backlash followed.
 - Strikes were organized with U.S. support from the CIA.



Chile

- ▶ Allende held on to power until a military government led by Pinochet took power in a U.S.-supported coup d'état. Allende, along with thousands of supporters, was killed.
 - Pinochet would lead Chile through massive economic reforms called the Miracle of Chile before open elections removed him from power in 1990.
 - Pinochet's regime was one of severe brutality. Thousands fled to avoid torture and other abuses, while thousands more just disappeared.
- ▶ Some people viewed him as saving Chile from communism and believed that his repressive measures were necessary in the face of increasingly violent resistance.
- ▶ However, Pinochet was one of the most brutal rulers in Chile's history and U.S. support of such figures is indicative of policy throughout this time – obtain political and other benefits for the U.S. while often overlooking the miseries of the various populations governed by U.S.-supported governments.



Guatemala

- ▶ Foreign investors virtually controlled Guatemala's economy after WWII. The economy was heavily dependent on exports of coffee and bananas.
- ▶ In 1953, President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman began a program of economic nationalism and took control of transportation and the electrical network.
- ▶ Arbenz then attempted to take unused lands from large estates, including a sizeable amount of property from the United Fruit Company (controlled by U.S. investors). Land was to be redistributed to peasants.
- ▶ Although U.S. President Eisenhower offered compensation for the land, he reacted by ordering the CIA to overthrow the government.



Guatemala

- ▶ Eisenhower believed that Communist influences were at work behind the nationalization of the United Fruit Company land.
- ▶ The U.S. trained non-Communist forces under Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas to combat the government
- ▶ Armas toppled the government in 1954, returned the land taken from the United Fruit Company, and ruled as a military dictator, killing and torturing opponents.
 - ▶ Under Armas, the deaths and disappearance of over 200,000 people were reported.
 - ▶ These events were investigated by various agencies as acts of genocide against the Mayas.
 - ▶ Armas' brutality resulted in intense rebel activity and his assassination in 1957.

