Power After Empire

Independence, aid, and shifting alliances after World War II

SS24.WH.14 "Explain realignment and reconstruction in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America after World War II, including the decline of colonial empires..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two efforts to gain self-rule, circle one example of resistance to those efforts, and number two ways economic ties changed alliances.

A Changing World After 1945

1. When World War II ended, European empires were weakened, but they did not simply hand over colonies. In India, mass protests and negotiations pressed Britain to leave; India gained independence in 1947. In Vietnam, France tried to regain control, and independence fighters fought a long war. In Ghana, organizers used strikes, elections, and public campaigns to challenge British rule. Britain granted Ghana independence in 1957. These different paths redrew political ties across Asia and Africa, even as former rulers tried to retain influence.

2. The end of British rule in Palestine led to another bitter struggle. The Zionist movement sought a Jewish national home in Palestine, an aim made more urgent for many Jews after the Holocaust. In 1947, the United Nations proposed dividing Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. Jewish leaders accepted the plan; Palestinian Arab leaders and neighboring Arab governments rejected it, arguing that it denied Palestinians control of their homeland. Israel declared independence in 1948, and war followed. Many Palestinians fled or were expelled, while Israel became a new state.

3. Economic aid also reshaped alliances. Beginning in 1948, the United States funded the Marshall Plan to rebuild Western European economies and strengthen ties with them. In 1949, the Soviet Union created COMECON to coordinate trade and economic cooperation with its Eastern European allies. These programs helped divide Europe into rival spheres of influence. In Latin America, Cuba's 1959 revolution shifted its relationship away from the United States. Soviet oil and trade helped Cuba withstand U.S. pressure, extending Soviet influence beyond Europe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did France's actions in Vietnam differ from Britain's response to organizers in Ghana?

2. What did the Zionist movement seek, and why did Palestinian Arab leaders oppose the proposed partition?

3. How did the Marshall Plan and COMECON help create rival spheres of influence in Europe?

4. How did Soviet economic ties support Cuba's shift away from the United States?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining how independence and economic ties redrew power after 1945. Connect one case from Asia or Africa with one aid example from Europe or Latin America, and explain how the two kinds of change differed.

Power After Empire

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two efforts to gain self-rule, circle one example of resistance to those efforts, and number two ways economic ties changed alliances. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did France's actions in Vietnam differ from Britain's response to organizers in Ghana?	**France tried to regain control of Vietnam and fought independence forces. Britain granted Ghana independence after organizers used strikes, elections, and campaigns.**
2	What did the Zionist movement seek, and why did Palestinian Arab leaders oppose the proposed partition?	**The Zionist movement sought a Jewish national home in Palestine. Palestinian Arab leaders argued that partition denied Palestinians control of their homeland.**
3	How did the Marshall Plan and COMECON help create rival spheres of influence in Europe?	**U.S. rebuilding funds strengthened ties with Western Europe, while Soviet-led economic cooperation strengthened ties with Eastern European allies.**
4	How did Soviet economic ties support Cuba's shift away from the United States?	**Soviet oil and trade helped Cuba withstand U.S. pressure and increased Soviet influence in Latin America.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In India, mass protests and negotiations helped end British colonial rule in 1947. This changed who governed India. In Western Europe, the Marshall Plan used U.S. funds to rebuild economies and strengthen ties with the United States. India gained political independence, while the Marshall Plan changed economic ties and helped shape an alliance.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that distinguish a change in political rule from a change in economic ties or influence.