Conflicts Across Borders

Trace how conflicts changed power around the world

6-9.WH.5.2 "Identify and compare major modern world conflicts and explain their global consequences and impacts including European colonialism, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and decolonialism movements."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one global consequence of each conflict or movement in the passage. Number two places where an earlier event helped shape a later one so you can compare their effects.

When Conflict Reached Beyond Borders

1. In the late 1800s, European powers took control of much of Africa and parts of Asia. They drew borders, seized resources, and made local people work or pay taxes. Colonial rule connected distant places through trade, but wealth and power mostly flowed to Europe. Resistance sometimes met armed force. These imposed borders and unequal systems outlasted colonial governments. When fighting later spread across Europe, colonies supplied soldiers and materials, showing that a conflict centered in one region could draw in people across the world.

2. World War I began in Europe in 1914, but empires pulled troops and resources from many continents into the fighting. After the war, the victors redrew borders, and the League of Nations was formed to help prevent future wars. It failed to stop World War II, which began in 1939 and spread across Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. The war killed millions, including people murdered in the Holocaust. Afterward, countries formed the United Nations, and European powers struggled to keep control of their colonies.

3. Across Asia and Africa, independence movements pressed for self-rule. India gained independence from Britain in 1947, while Algeria won independence from France in 1962 after a brutal war. At the same time, the Cold War divided the United States and Soviet Union and their allies. Unlike the two world wars, these rivals did not fight each other directly in a full-scale war. Instead, they competed for influence and backed opposing sides in conflicts elsewhere. Newly independent countries faced pressure to choose sides, even as they worked to build their own governments.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did both European colonialism and World War I draw people from distant regions into events centered in Europe?

2. What international organization followed each world war, and what does the passage say about the first organization's success?

3. How did the aftermath of World War II affect European colonial rule, and how did independence movements respond?

4. How did the Cold War differ from the world wars, and how did it still affect countries beyond the main rivals?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining how a colony could become independent yet still face outside pressure. Connect colonial rule, World War II, one independence movement in the passage, and the Cold War, and compare two kinds of outside influence.

ANSWER KEY

Conflicts Across Borders

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WH.5.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one global consequence of each conflict or movement in the passage. Number two places where an earlier event helped shape a later one so you can compare their effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did both European colonialism and World War I draw people from distant regions into events centered in Europe?	**European powers ruled parts of Africa and Asia, and their colonies supplied soldiers and materials when World War I began in Europe.**
2	What international organization followed each world war, and what does the passage say about the first organization's success?	**The League of Nations followed World War I, but it failed to stop World War II. The United Nations was formed after World War II.**
3	How did the aftermath of World War II affect European colonial rule, and how did independence movements respond?	**European powers struggled to keep their colonies after the war. Independence movements pressed for self-rule, and India and Algeria gained independence.**
4	How did the Cold War differ from the world wars, and how did it still affect countries beyond the main rivals?	**The United States and Soviet Union did not fight each other directly in a full-scale war. They backed opposing sides in conflicts elsewhere and pressured newly independent countries to choose sides.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

European powers ruled colonies in Africa and Asia, taking resources and controlling local people. After World War II, European powers struggled to keep their colonies, and India gained independence from Britain in 1947. Independence ended British rule in India, but newly independent countries still faced pressure to choose sides in the Cold War. Colonial powers governed territories directly, while the Cold War rivals competed for influence without fighting each other in a full-scale war.

Accept other accurate links supported by the passage. In Part 3, look for a clear distinction between direct colonial rule and Cold War competition for influence.