

Colonial Rule Under Pressure

Trace how postwar pressures and nationalist action weakened European colonial control.

10.7b "African independence movements gained strength as European states struggled economically after World War II. European efforts to limit African nationalist movements were often unsuccessful."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a nationalist method in each paragraph. Circle evidence that colonial rule ended despite European efforts to preserve it.

Independence Movements Gain Strength

- ① After World War II, Britain faced debt and costly overseas commitments. In the Gold Coast, later Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah and the Convention People's Party demanded self-government through rallies, strikes, and the 1950 Positive Action campaign. British officials imprisoned Nkrumah, but his party won the 1951 election while he was jailed. Negotiations and further electoral victories advanced self-government. Ghana became independent in 1957. African organizing and changing British calculations both mattered; economic weakness alone did not deliver independence.
- ② In Kenya, land loss to settlers and exclusion from power fueled resistance. Some nationalists used political organizing; others joined the armed Mau Mau uprising. Britain declared an emergency in 1952, deployed troops, and detained large numbers of Kenyans. Colonial repression included torture and other abuses. British forces defeated the insurgency militarily, but this did not establish lasting acceptance of colonial rule. Continuing nationalist pressure and the political and financial costs of empire helped bring negotiations. Kenya became independent in 1963.
- ③ France regarded Algeria as part of France, and a large European settler population resisted independence. In 1954, the National Liberation Front, or FLN, launched armed struggle. French forces used military operations, arrests, and torture. The war was costly, divided France, and attracted international criticism. Military strength did not produce an acceptable political settlement preserving French rule. The 1962 Evian Accords established a ceasefire and a path to independence, although violence continued. Algeria became independent that year. Decolonization followed different paths in these three countries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Britain try to weaken Ghana's nationalist movement, and what shows that it continued?

2 How did Britain's postwar economic situation make colonial rule in Ghana and Kenya harder to maintain?

3 Compare nationalist methods in Kenya and Algeria. What did each European power do in response?

4 Why did France fail to keep Algeria under colonial rule even though France had greater military power?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose Ghana, Kenya, or Algeria. Write exactly four sentences explaining how nationalist action and postwar pressure on the European power helped lead toward independence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline a nationalist method in each paragraph. Circle evidence that colonial rule ended despite European efforts to preserve it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Britain try to weaken Ghana's nationalist movement, and what shows that it continued?	Officials imprisoned Nkrumah, but his party won the 1951 election while he was jailed and continued advancing self-government.
2	How did Britain's postwar economic situation make colonial rule in Ghana and Kenya harder to maintain?	Postwar debt and costly commitments constrained Britain. Continuing political and financial costs, together with nationalist pressure, made maintaining colonial rule harder.
3	Compare nationalist methods in Kenya and Algeria. What did each European power do in response?	Both included armed struggle; Kenya also had political organizing. Britain deployed troops and detained people; France used military operations, arrests, and torture.
4	Why did France fail to keep Algeria under colonial rule even though France had greater military power?	The war was costly, divided France, and drew international criticism. Military strength did not achieve a political settlement preserving French rule.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Kenya's independence movement grew because many Africans opposed settler control of fertile land. Britain responded with an emergency, troops, and mass detention, but repression did not create lasting acceptance of colonial rule. Because Britain was rebuilding after World War II, maintaining Kenya required scarce money, soldiers, and political attention. These pressures helped make negotiations and independence in 1963 more likely.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations that connect nationalist resistance to the economic, military, or political costs facing Britain or France after World War II. For the open response, accept any selected case if it contains exactly four sentences and clearly explains both nationalist action and European pressure.