Freedom and Its Limits

Independence, rights, and democratic change in Africa

MWH.C.7.5 "Assess the impact of African independence movements on human rights and the global expansion of democracy.. Explain the effects of Pan-Africanism on changing political boundaries and the development of anticolonialism..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways people challenged colonial rule or apartheid, circle two changes in political power, and number one example where gaining self-government did not guarantee equal rights.

Who Would Govern?

1. After World War II, African activists challenged European rule with a question: who should govern African people? Pan-Africanism joined people across colonies in a call for political freedom and shared rights. Its networks helped anticolonial campaigns gain allies abroad. As colonies became independent states, political boundaries changed because new governments replaced colonial control, although most states kept their inherited borders. Independence expanded self-government around the world, but a new flag alone did not guarantee equal rights.

2. In the British colony of the Gold Coast, Kwame Nkrumah organized mass political action through the Convention People's Party. Strikes, rallies, and elections increased pressure for self-government. Britain jailed Nkrumah in 1950, yet his party won a major election in 1951, and he began leading the government. In 1957, the Gold Coast became independent Ghana. Its victory offered anticolonial activists elsewhere an example: organized public pressure could help turn demands for rights into an independent state.

3. South Africa shows why self-government did not ensure democracy. Under apartheid, the white minority government enforced racial separation, denied Black South Africans national voting rights, and controlled where they could live and work. Black workers faced unequal opportunities. Nelson Mandela helped lead resistance and spent 27 years in prison; Desmond Tutu urged nonviolent protest and sanctions abroad. Internal resistance and international boycotts and sanctions weakened apartheid. In 1994, South Africans of all races voted in national elections, and Mandela became president.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Pan-Africanism help change political power even though most new states kept their inherited borders?

2. Why did the 1951 election strengthen Ghana's struggle for self-government?

3. How did apartheid's political rules contribute to economic inequality?

4. Why did pressure from both inside and outside South Africa matter in ending apartheid?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence advisory note to a newly independent country. Propose one policy to protect voting rights, explain how the country could seek international allies, cite one lesson from Ghana or South Africa, and identify one danger a new flag cannot fix.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.7.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways people challenged colonial rule or apartheid, circle two changes in political power, and number one example where gaining self-government did not guarantee equal rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Pan-Africanism help change political power even though most new states kept their inherited borders?	**Its networks helped anticolonial campaigns gain allies, supporting independence that replaced colonial control with African governments.**
2	Why did the 1951 election strengthen Ghana's struggle for self-government?	**Nkrumah's party won despite his imprisonment, showing the strength of organized demands for self-government.**
3	How did apartheid's political rules contribute to economic inequality?	**The government denied Black South Africans national voting rights and controlled where they could live and work, while Black workers faced unequal opportunities.**
4	Why did pressure from both inside and outside South Africa matter in ending apartheid?	**Internal resistance challenged apartheid at home, while international boycotts and sanctions added pressure from abroad. Together they weakened the system.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Guarantee every adult the right to vote, regardless of race, and establish independent election monitors. Ask Pan-African groups and foreign partners to speak out if the government violates that right. South Africa's experience shows that internal protest and outside pressure can work together against political exclusion. A new flag cannot prevent leaders from limiting rights unless citizens can hold them accountable.

Accept other historically supported connections between collective action, independence, voting rights, and international pressure. For the advisory note, look for a specific voting policy, a plausible way to gain allies, an accurate historical lesson, and a limit of independence.