

# Independence and Nationalism in the Developing World, 1945-1993

## THE STORY MATTERS...

In 1950 the South African government passed laws segregating black Africans from white Africans. This system of legalized racism is known as apartheid. Opposition and resistance to apartheid came from leaders within South Africa, such as Nelson Mandela. Mandela, head of the African National Congress, was imprisoned for 27 years because of his protests. Following his release, Mandela led negotiations to transform the South African government into one based on equality. In 1994 he became South Africa's first democratically elected black president.

## Lesson 32-1

# South and Southeast Asia

### READING HELPDESK

#### Academic Vocabulary

transfer                      role

#### Content Vocabulary

principle of nonalignment                      discrimination

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How can political change cause conflict?
- How can political relationships affect economic relationships?

### IT MATTERS BECAUSE

Following World War II, many South and Southeast Asian states gained their independence. British India was split into two nations—India and Pakistan. While some Southeast Asian countries have moved toward democracy, they have faced some serious obstacles along that path.

## India Divided

**GUIDING QUESTION** *How did India emerge as an independent country?*

At the end of World War II, British India's Muslims and Hindus were divided. The leaders in India decided British India would have to be divided into two countries, one Hindu (India) and one Muslim (Pakistan). Pakistan consisted of two regions separated by India. One part, West Pakistan, was to the northwest of India. The other, East Pakistan, was to the northeast.

On August 15, 1947, India and Pakistan became independent. Millions of Hindus and Muslims fled across the new borders, Hindus toward India and Muslims toward Pakistan. Violence resulted from these mass migrations, and more than a million people were killed. One of the dead was well known. On January 30, 1948, a Hindu militant assassinated Mohandas Gandhi as he was going to morning prayer. India's new beginning had not been easy.

### The New India

Having worked closely with Mohandas Gandhi for Indian independence, Jawaharlal Nehru (juh • WAH • nuhr

• LAHL NEHR • 00) led the Congress Party, formerly the Indian National Congress. Nehru admired the socialist ideals of the British Labour Party. His goal was a parliamentary government led by a prime minister and a moderate socialist economy. Under Nehru's leadership, the state took ownership of major industries, utilities, and transportation. Private enterprise was allowed at the local level, and farmland was left in private hands. The Indian government also sought to avoid dependence on foreign investment. India developed a large industrial sector, and industrial production almost tripled between 1950 and 1965.

Nehru also guided India's foreign policy according to a principle of nonalignment. Concerned about military conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union and about the influence of former colonial powers, Nehru refused to align India with either bloc. Rather, he joined other developing countries in the idea that they should not take sides in the growing Cold War.

After Nehru's death, the Congress Party selected his daughter, Indira Gandhi (not related to Mohandas Gandhi), as prime minister. She held office for most of the time between 1966 and 1984. India faced many problems during this period. In the 1950s and 1960s, India's population grew by 2 percent a year, contributing to widespread poverty. Millions lived in vast city slums. It was in the slums of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) that Mother Teresa, a Catholic nun, helped the poor, sick, and dying Indian people.

Growing ethnic and religious strife presented another major problem. One conflict involved the Sikhs, followers of a religion based on both Hindu and Muslim ideas. Many Sikhs lived in the Punjab, a northern province. Militant Sikhs demanded that this province be independent from India. Gandhi refused and in 1984 used military force against Sikh rebels. More than 450 Sikhs were killed.

Seeking revenge, two Sikh members of Gandhi's personal bodyguard assassinated her later that year.

Conflict between Hindus and Muslims also continued. Religious differences fueled a long-term dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, a territory between the two nations.

Gandhi's son Rajiv replaced his mother as prime minister and began to move the government in new directions. Private enterprise was encouraged, as well as foreign investment. His successors continued to transfer state-run industries into private hands and to rely on the free market. This led to a noticeable growth in the middle class.

Rajiv Gandhi was prime minister from 1984 to 1989. While campaigning for reelection in 1991, he was assassinated. In the following years, the Congress Party lost its leadership position and had to compete with new political parties.

### **Pakistan and Bangladesh**

Unlike its neighbor India, Pakistan was a completely new nation when it attained independence in 1947. The growing division between East and West Pakistan, separate regions with different geographical features, caused internal conflicts. Many in East Pakistan believed that the government, based in West Pakistan, ignored their needs. In 1971 East Pakistan declared its independence from Pakistan. After a brief civil war, it became the new nation of Bangladesh.

Both Bangladesh and Pakistan (formerly West Pakistan) have remained very poor. They also have had difficulty establishing stable governments. Military officials have often seized control of the civilian government.

#### **READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Determining Cause and Effect** What were the immediate effects of the partition of British India?

## **Southeast Asia**

**GUIDING QUESTION** *What experiences did independence bring to new Southeast Asian countries?*

After World War II, most states in Southeast Asia gained independence from their colonial rulers. The process varied considerably across the region, however. In July 1946, the United States granted total independence to the Philippines. Great Britain was also willing to end its colonial rule in Southeast Asia. In 1948 Burma became independent from Great Britain.

In the beginning, many of the leaders of the newly independent states in Southeast Asia admired Western political and economic practices. They hoped to form democratic, capitalist states like those in the West. By the end of the 1950s, however, hopes for rapid economic growth had failed. Internal disputes weakened the new democratic governments, opening the door to both military and one-party autocratic regimes.

## **Indonesia and Myanmar**

The Netherlands was less willing than Great Britain to abandon its colonial empire in Southeast Asia. The Netherlands tried to suppress a new Indonesian republic proclaimed by Achmed Sukarno. When the Indonesian Communist Party attempted to seize power, however, the United States pressured the Netherlands to grant independence to Sukarno and his non-Communist Nationalist Party. In 1949 the Netherlands recognized the new Republic of Indonesia.

In 1950 the new leaders created a parliamentary system and Sukarno was elected the first president. In the late 1950s, however, he dissolved the constitution and tried to rule on his own through what he called "guided democracy." Sukarno also nationalized foreign-owned enterprises and sought economic aid from China and the Soviet Union. Military officers overthrew Sukarno and established a military government under General Suharto. Democracy had failed.

In Burma, which is now the nation of Myanmar, the military has been in complete control since the early 1960s. The people of Myanmar have continued to fight for democracy, however. Leading the struggle is Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Aung San, who led the Burma Independence Army in 1947. Educated abroad, Suu Kyi returned to Myanmar in 1988 and became involved in the movement for democracy. Her party won a landslide victory in 1990, but the military rulers refused to hand over power. Instead, Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest for many years. In 1991 Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize for her pro-democracy efforts.

### **Vietnam and Cambodia**

By 1975, North Vietnamese Communist armies had forcibly reunited Vietnam and begun the process of rebuilding that shattered land. The reunification of Vietnam under Communist rule had an immediate impact on the region. By the end of 1975, both Laos and Cambodia had Communist governments. In Cambodia, Pol Pot, leader of the Khmer Rouge, massacred more than 1 million Cambodians. Conflict continued in Cambodia throughout the 1980s. It was not until 1993 that Cambodians held free UN-sponsored elections. Meanwhile, the government in Vietnam remained suspicious of Western-style democracy and repressed any opposition to the Communist Party's guiding role over the state.

### **The Philippines**

In more recent years, some Southeast Asian societies have shown signs of moving again toward more democratic governments. One example is the Philippines. There, President Ferdinand Marcos came to power in 1965. Fraud and corruption became widespread in the Marcos regime. In the early 1980s, Marcos was accused of involvement in the killing of a popular opposition leader, Benigno Aquino. Corazon Aquino, wife of the murdered leader, became president in 1986 and worked for democratic reforms.

Nevertheless, she soon proved unable to resolve many of the country's chronic economic and social problems.

### **Women in South and Southeast Asia**

Across South and Southeast Asia, the rights and roles of women have changed. In India, women's rights expanded after independence. Its constitution of 1950 forbade discrimination based on gender and called for equal pay for equal work. Child marriage was also outlawed.

Women were encouraged to attend school and to enter the labor market. In Southeast Asia, virtually all the newly independent states granted women full legal and political rights. Women have become more active in politics and occasionally hold senior political or corporate positions.

#### **READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Comparing** What challenges did Indonesia and Myanmar confront following independence?

## **LESSON 32-1 REVIEW**

### **Reviewing Vocabulary**

1. **Applying** How did the Cold War influence India's principle of nonalignment?

### **Using Your Notes**

2. **Identifying** Use your notes to identify some of the problems India faced after its independence.

### **Answering the Guiding Questions**

3. **Analyzing** How did India emerge as an independent country?
4. **Drawing Conclusions** What experiences did independence bring to new Southeast Asian countries?

### **Writing Activity**

5. **Argument** Pretend you are a citizen of a South or Southeast Asian country that gained its independence. Write an essay about your experiences.