

African Historical Understandings

SS7H1 The student will analyze continuity and change in Africa leading to the 21st century.

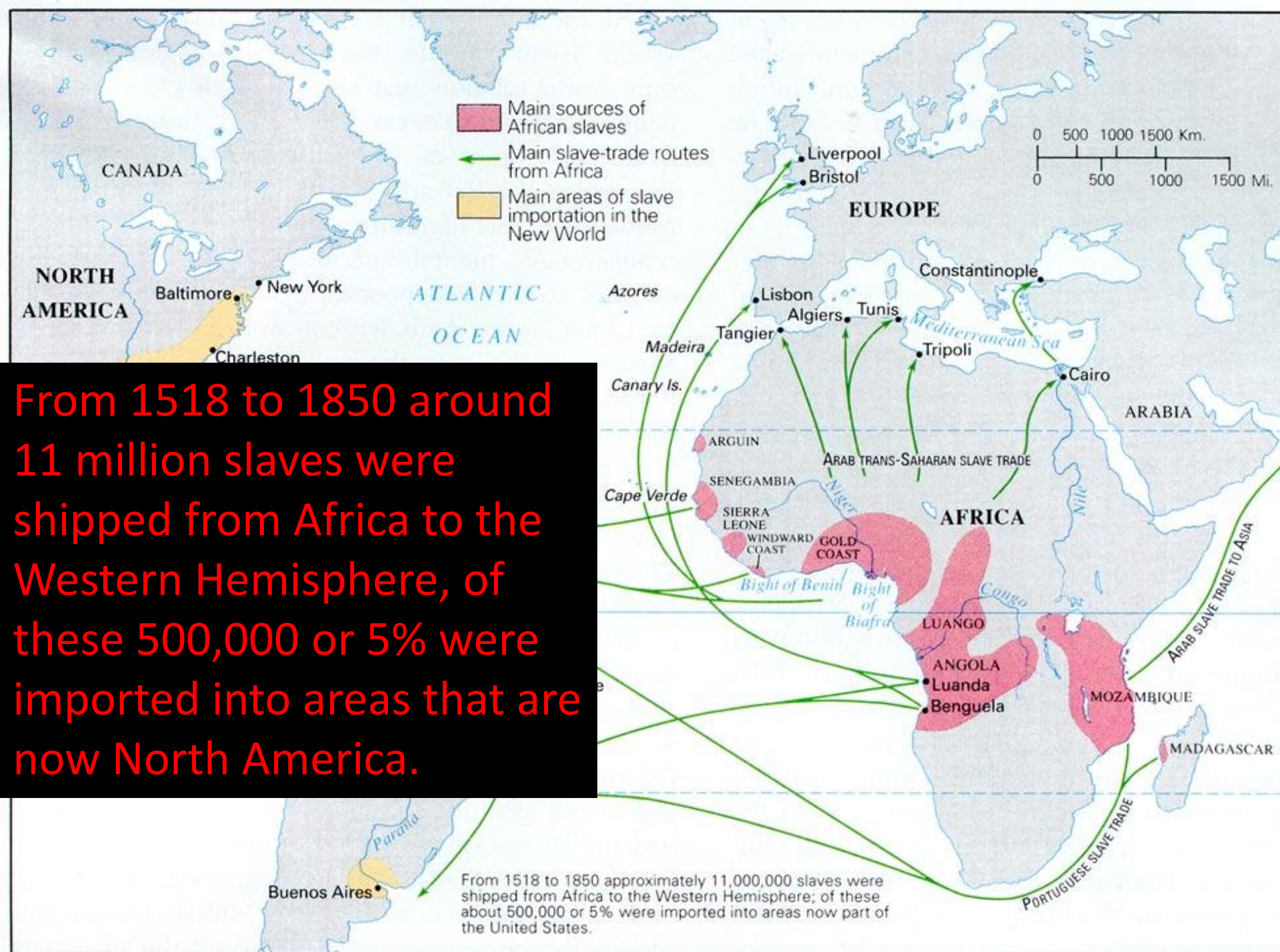
a. Explain how the European partitioning across Africa contributed to conflict, civil war, and artificial political boundaries.



Europeans first became interested in Africa through their interest in the slave trade.

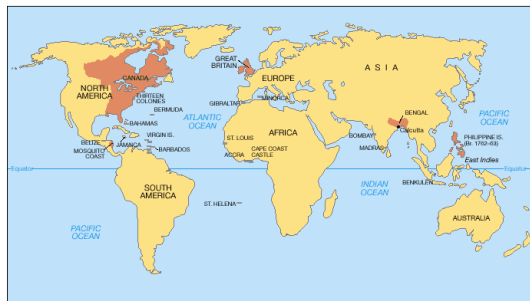
AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE

Main sources of slaves

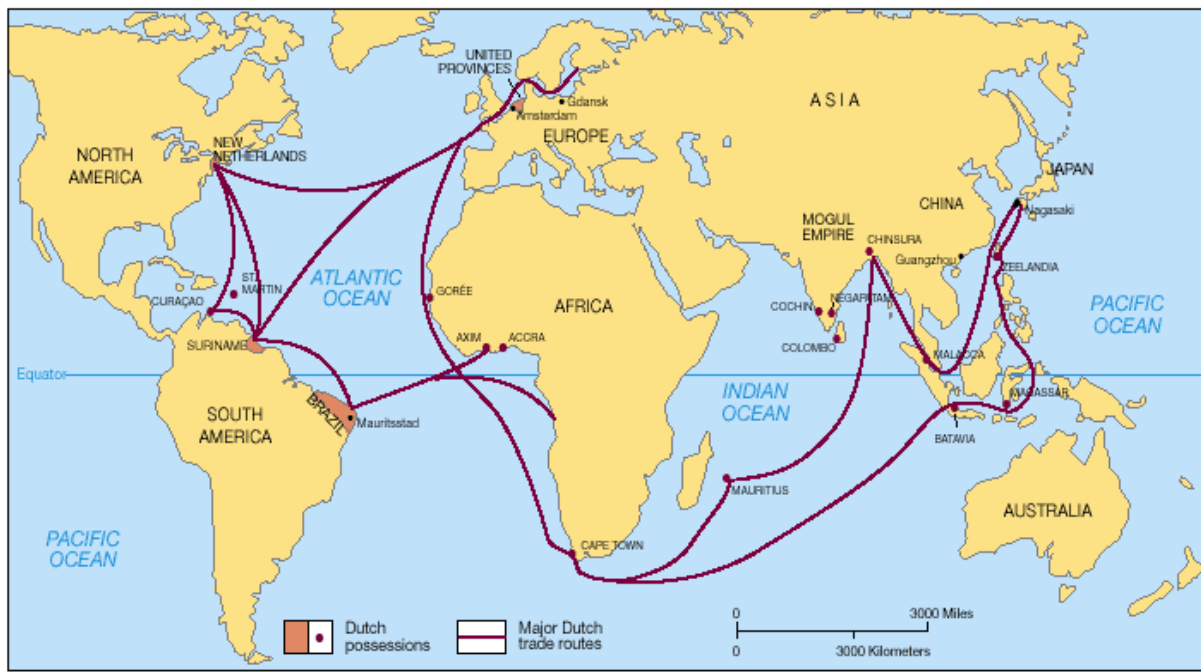


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The First British Empire (ca. 1763). The empire was the result of commercial enterprise and Britain's military successes.



Dutch Trade Routes, ca. 1650. The Dutch were the greatest commercial nation of the seventeenth century.

- Imperialism is a system where a strong country takes wealth and raw materials from another.
- Raw materials, like rubber, diamonds, and gold, were found in Africa and eventually led Europeans to found colonies in Africa.
- Many Europeans also wanted to protect trade and transportation routes.

Triangle Trade

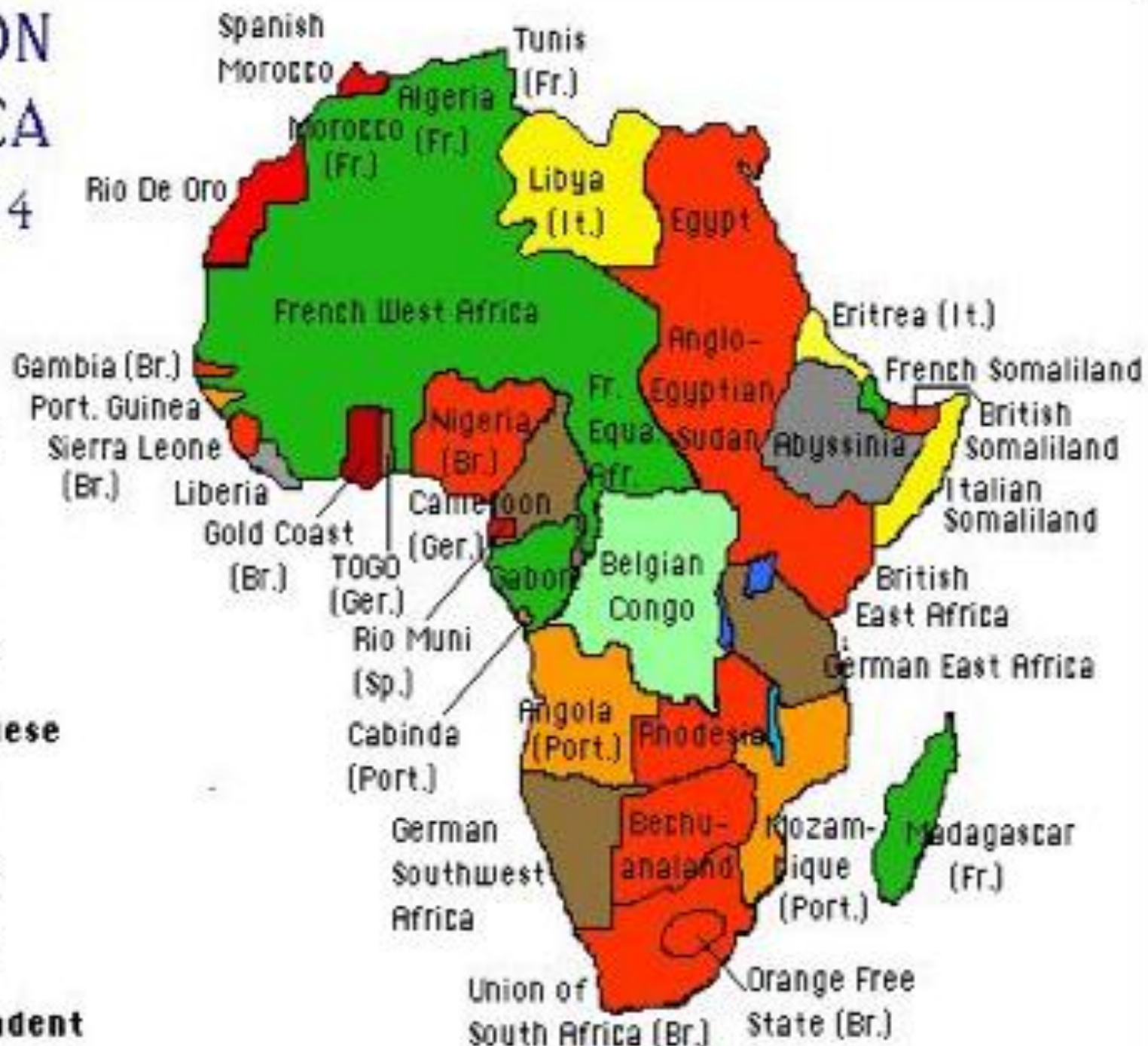


PARTITION OF AFRICA

1885 - 1914

Colonial Powers

-  **British**
-  **French**
-  **German**
-  **Portuguese**
-  **Italian**
-  **Belgian**
-  **Spanish**
-  **Independent**



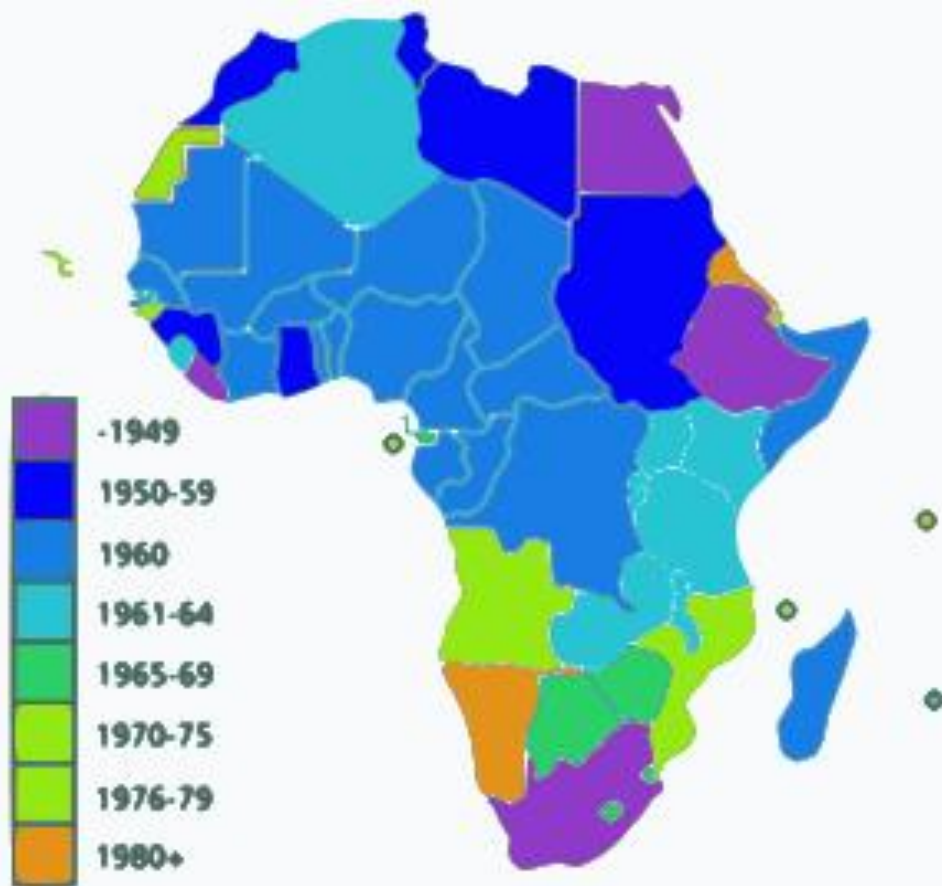
Berlin Conference

- 1885-1886 the European Nations divided Africa amongst themselves.
- This is often referred to as the “Scrabble for Africa”
- In order to establish their “indirect rule” Europeans used local chiefs as their enforcers in the colonies.
- Europeans also tried to assimilate Africans or have African people give up their own African customs and adopt European customs.





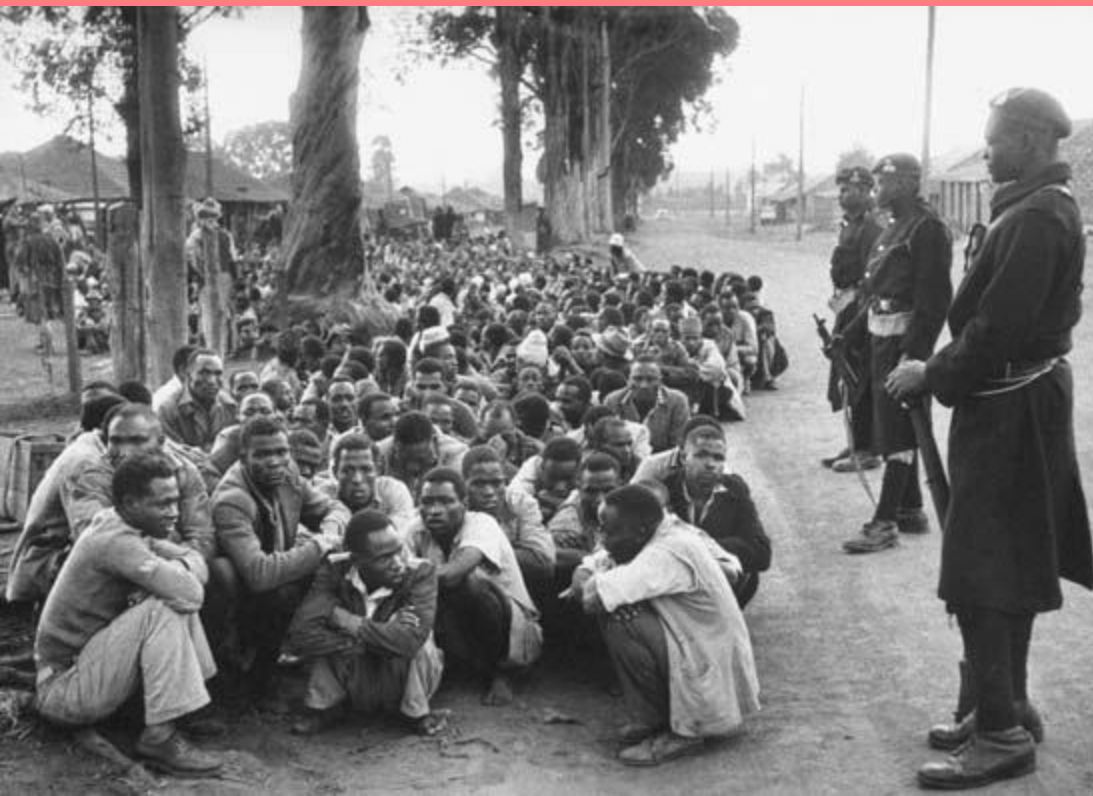
Before WWI Europeans had colonized many parts of the world



- After WWII, and especially during the Cold War and Civil Rights movement African Nations began to demand their independence.
- 1950-1960 → 27 African Countries became independent.
- 1960-1975 → all 47 African Nations liberated.



- African Nations still face numerous problems. One of the most serious is that Europeans split tribes, kinship groups, and ethnic groups when they partitioned Africa.
- When African nations finally gained independence most often former colonial boundaries remained.



There have been about 50 Ethnic Conflicts in Africa since WWII as a result of the colonial lines drawn by Europeans.