#### Africa's

### Independence

#### Movements

South Africa, Kenya, & Nigeria

#### Standards

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

b. Explain how nationalism led to independence in South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria.

#### Nationalism

- By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, European powers had colonized the majority of Africa.
  - The only independent countries were Liberia and Ethiopia.
  - Liberia was founded in 1822 by former American slaves.
- Nationalism, a feeling of strong pride for one's country, fed the desire for independence from foreign rule.
  - Africans wanted to take control of their own governments and natural resources.



- Africa began to change by the 1940s.
  - The rule of tribal chiefs had weakened because of their links with colonial governments, thus limiting their ability to control people.
  - An educated middle class that disliked colonial life began to grow in the cities.
  - The cost for European countries to maintain colonies was rising.
- By the second half of the century, unrest arose throughout the continent and African nations fought to free themselves from European control.

### South

Africa

#### Colonization

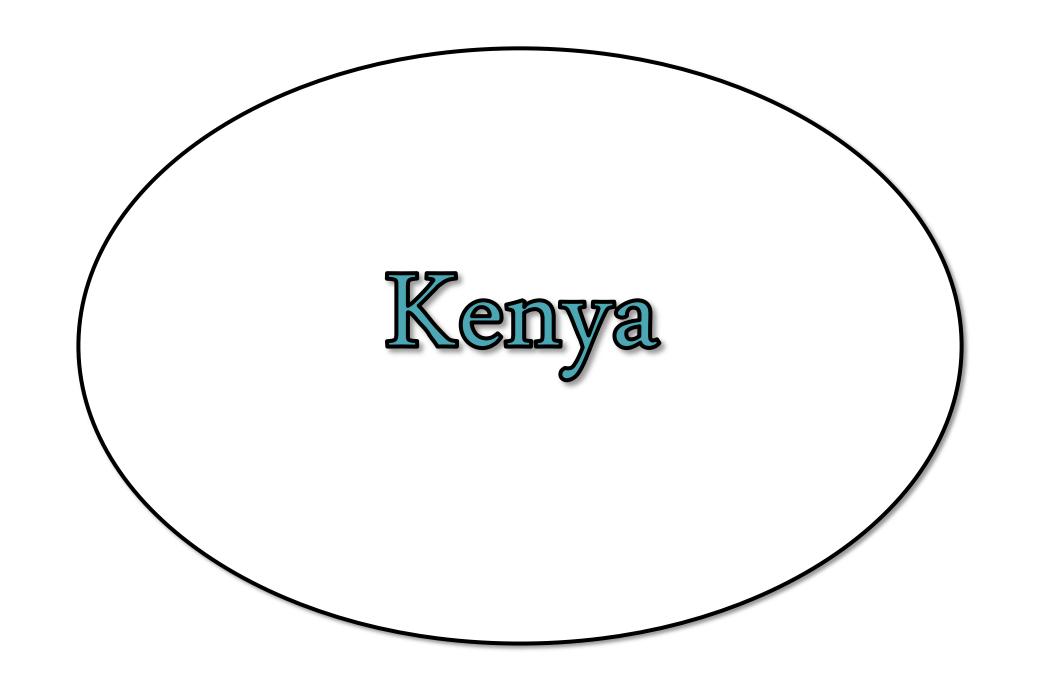
- In the 1600s, the British and the Dutch colonized South Africa.
  - More European settlers came to South Africa than to anywhere else on the continent.
- In 1910, Great Britain established the Union of South Africa, and power was only given to whites.
- In 1948, a new political party, the National Party, came to power and enforced the policy of apartheid through legislation across South Africa.
  - Apartheid was a system of racial segregation.

## Apartheid

- Apartheid allowed many Europeans to grow wealthy and powerful, while millions of South Africans suffered.
- In 1951, European government officials created the Bantu Authorities Act, which created "homelands" for black South Africans.
  - At this time, whites owned 80% of the land, although they only represented 10% of the population.
  - As a result of this law, 9 million South Africans were excluded from participating in the government.

# Independence

- South Africa's National Party, which was white-only and in favor of apartheid, had a goal to gain independence from Great Britain.
- In a white-only election in 1960, voters approved independence.
  - On May 31, 1961, the Republic of South Africa gained its independence from Britain.
- It took years of protests, several more decades, and a change of government leaders before blacks began to have a role in the government of South Africa.



#### Colonization

- For hundreds of years, outsiders did not enter the region now known as Kenya because of the fierce warrior tribes that inhabited the area.
- Arab traders took control of Kenya's coast during the 1800s.
- Next came Germany and Great Britain, but by the 1900s, the British were the only foreigners who remained.

#### Rebellion

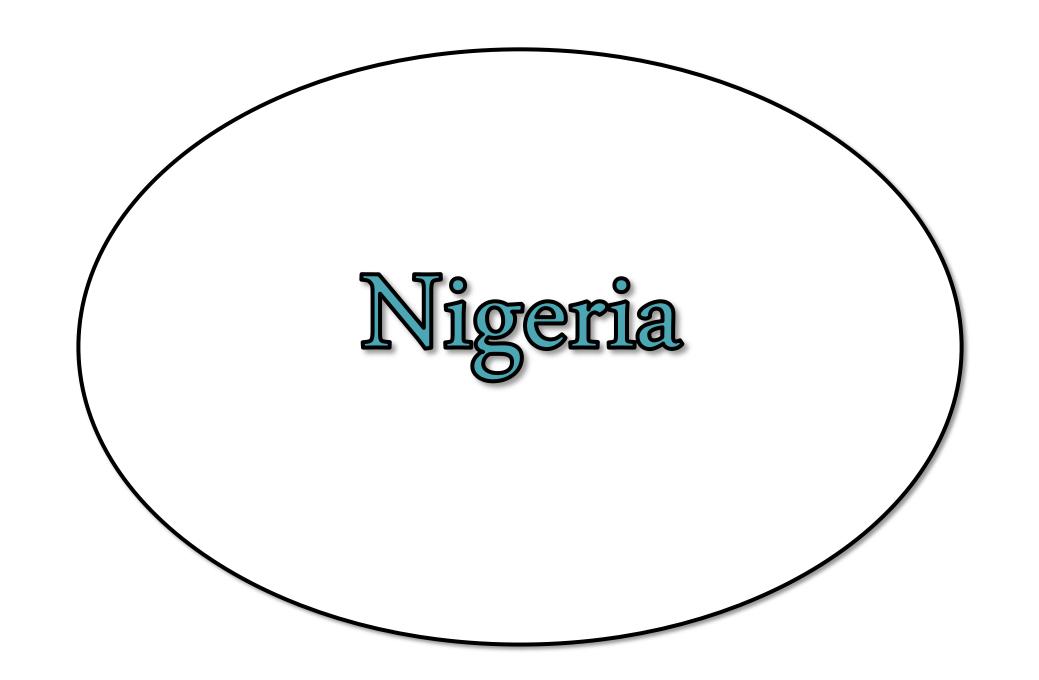
- Most Kenyans were upset by their loss of rights as landowners to the British.
  - They believed that their land was taken unfairly and opposition groups began to form in the 1920s.
- For several decades, small bands of armed resistance forces (guerillas) fought to eliminate white settlers in Kenya, as well as any Africans who sided with them.
- In 1956, there was a violent rebellion that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Africans.
  - Although the British army mostly defeated the guerillas, this movement gained a great deal support among Kenyans.

## Independence

- Kenyans were tired of being treated unfairly, and it was time for a change.
- Great Britain began to rethinking its policy on colonization, and on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1963, the British Empire granted Kenya its independence.
- Jomo Kenyatta was the most influential leader of the freedom movement in Kenya, and was appointed as the nation's first president.



- Kenyatta was a leader of the Kenyan African National Union, and during his presidency, began a campaign called *harambee*, which is Swahili for "let's pull together."
- Under Kenyatta and his successor, Daniel arap Moi, the KNAU ran unopposed in elections until the 1990s.
  - The country remains a multi-party state, but the reality is that the KNAU is in control of the government.
- By the time of his death in 1978, Kenyatta had helped Kenya become one of the most stable and economically dynamic countries in Africa.
  - Even though there has been improvement in the political rights of Kenya's people, more is still needed.



### Nigeria

- The country now known as Nigeria was a diverse region with more than 250 ethnic groups.
  - Nigeria had maintained its independence until 1914 when Great Britain took over the area.
- By the end of World War II, Nigerians had started political parties to work for Nigerian independence.
  - Most Nigerians believed that the only way to have rights was to be completely free of European rule.

# Independence

- During the 1950s, Great Britain allowed Nigeria to elect its own government.
  - In 1957, Nigerians elected Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as their first prime minister.
- On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1960, Great Britain granted Nigeria independence and an independent government was established.
- At first, it was one of the most stable governments of the new African countries.

## Nigeria Today

- At first, Nigeria was one of the more stable governments in Africa.
  - Unfortunately, struggles for power have resulted in many military coups in the country.
- Nigeria suffered from violence and military rule from 1966 until 1999, when a democratic government was established.
- In recent years, political instability, religious competition, ethnic differences and the need to become more modern continue to plague Nigeria.

#### The End

- By 1966, all but six African countries were independent nation-states.
- Unfortunately, once the countries were independent of European rule, they still faced many challenges.
  - Many of the new governments were politically unstable.
  - European powers did not teach new leaders how to govern.
  - In some African countries, military dictators took over the governments.