World History Topic 8: Independence Movements (1800-2000)

This theme focuses on the emergence of new states in the 19th and 20th centuries. It explores the origins and rise of independence movements, the reasons for their success, the challenges that new states face in their first 10 years, and the responses to those challenges. Examination questions may require students to make reference to examples of movements from two different regions of the world. In order for students to be able to make meaningful comparisons across all aspects of the prescribed content, it is recommended that a minimum of three independence movements should be studied. Please note that the focus of this topic is specifically on movements seeking independence from a foreign power, so topics such as Solidarity in Poland would not be an appropriate example.

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| Topic | Prescribed Content |
| Origins and rise of independence movements, up to the point of independence | * Development of movements: role and relative importance of nationalism and political ideology * Development of movements: role and relative importance of religion, race, social and economic factors * Wars as a cause and/or catalyst for independence movements * Other internal and external factors fostering growth of independence movements |
| Methods used and reasons for success | * Methods of achieving independence (including violent and non-violent methods) * Role and importance of leaders of independence movements * The role and relative importance of other factors in the success of independence movements |
| Challenges faced in the first 10 years and responses to those challenges | * Challenges; political problems; ethnic, racial, and separatist movements * Social, cultural, and economic challenges * Responses to those challenges, and the effectiveness of those responses |