Study Guide

Unit 9: New Nations

# Theme

# How do you bring reconciliation to situations of injustice?

# Vocabulary

## Setting

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| British Empire  | British Empire, a worldwide system of dependencies—colonies, protectorates, and other territories—that over a span of some three centuries was brought under the sovereignty of the crown of Great Britain and the administration of the British government. |
| Structural violence | violence that is the result of a social structure or institution that keeps people from their basic needs. |
| Privilege  | a special right or advantage granted or available only to a particular person or group of people. |
| Decolonization | the undoing of colonialism |
| Nationalism | advocacy of political independence for a particular country. |

## Conflict

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| Mandates | control of one country transferred to another by the League of Nations following World War I |
| Palestine | a geographical and historical region in the Middle East; |
| Zionism | a movement for (originally) the re-establishment and (now) the development and protection of a Jewish nation in what is now Israel. |
| Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) | The Palestine Liberation Organization is an organization founded in 1964 with the purpose of the "liberation of Palestine" through armed struggle |
| Intifada | “to shake off”; Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip |

## Characters

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| Mohandas Gandhi | political and spiritual leader during India's struggle with Great Britain for home rule, advocating of nonviolent civil resistance |
| Jawaharlal Nehru | Indian statesman and leader with Gandhi in the struggle for home rule; was the first prime minister of the Republic of India |
| Muhammad Ali Jinnah | lawyer, politician, and the founder of Pakistan |
| Nelson Mandela | South African statesman who was released from prison to become the nation's first democratically elected president in 1994 |
| Desmond Tutu | South African Anglican cleric and theologian known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist. |

## Plot

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| Indian National Congress | political party founded in 1885 and central to the independence movement in the 1930s under Mahatma Gandhi |
| Civil Disobedience  | the refusal to comply with certain laws or to pay taxes and fines, as a peaceful form of political protest. |
| Nonviolence | the use of peaceful means, not force, to bring about political or social change. |
| Salt March  | A march to the sea to break the law regarding the British monopoly on salt. |
| Partition | the division of British India in 1947 which accompanied the creation of two independent dominions, India and Pakistan. |

## Resolution

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| Pan Africanism  | a worldwide intellectual movement that aims to encourage and strengthen bonds of solidarity between all people of African descent. |
| Apartheid  | a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race in South Africa |
| Truth and Reconciliation Commission  | a court-like restorative justice body assembled in South Africa after the abolition of apartheid in 1994. |

# Analysis

Answer the main questions in a perfect paragraph. There should be a topic sentence, three supporting sentences and a conclusion. The supporting questions are provided to support your thinking around the main question.

## Theme

1. How do you bring reconciliation to situations of injustice?

*What are the challenges to reconciliation?*

*What is the structural violence of privilege?*

*What does reconciliation require?*

## Setting

1. What sparked the decolonization of Asia and Africa?

*Why did colonial powers resist decolonization?*

*Why was the British Empire weakening?*

*How did nationalism drive independence movements?*

## Conflict

1. How did British colonization lead to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

*What do Jews and Palestinians both claim about Palestine?*

*How did the British colonization prepare the way for conflict?*

*How does the UN two-state plan for Palestine remain unresolved?*

## Characters

1. How did Gandhi fashion a new response to injustice in India?

*What is nonviolent civil disobedience?*

*How did Gandhi apply nonviolence in the independence movement?*

*Was Gandhi’s nonviolent civil disobedience successful? Explain.*

## Plot

1. Why was there a partition of India?

*What was the British policy of “divide and conquer”?*

*How was that policy applied in India?*

*What was the result of the partition of India?*

## Resolution

1. How did Africa decolonize?

*Why is pan-Africanism important?*

*Who were major figures in the decolonization in Africa?*

*How was South Africa unique?*

# Analysis

Answer the main questions in a perfect paragraph. There should be a topic sentence, three supporting sentences and a conclusion. The supporting questions are provided to support your thinking around the main question.

## Theme

1. How do you bring reconciliation to situations of injustice?

Reconciliation is the challenging task of rebuilding relationships after experiencing the pain of injustice. It is a long and difficult process because injustice creates painful wounds that require healing, especially when it is committed against whole groups of people—women, people of color, poor, etc. A variety of groups face a daily violence that is not physical, but a constant closure of opportunities to them because of social norms that marginalize them. Reconciliation is a long process of rebuilding relationships through truth telling and honest dialogue that move offenders beyond the blindness of their privileged power to admissions of guilt and restitution. It is not just of matter of saying sorry, but doing sorry through acts that correct the injustice.

## Setting

1. What sparked the decolonization of Asia and Africa?

Decolonization was sparked by the decline of European imperial powers after two world wars. Since the industrial revolution, Europeans had colonized Asia and Africa to exploit their resources, but the devastation of war weakened them. Japanese expansion into European colonies demonstrated their political weakness and the economic burden of maintaining their empire. This led to nationalist movement advocating for their own rights for self-determination, which found support from Soviets during the Cold War. The weakening of European empires and the desire of colonized people for independence pushed imperialism to an end.

## Conflict

1. How did British colonization lead to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

The Israel-Palestine conflict was sparked by decisions the British made regarding Palestine after World War I. The British made contradictory promises to Arab and Zionist Jews, namely Arab independence for fighting against the Ottoman Turks and the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. They also broke promises to Arabs by secretly planning to take control of the Middle East in the Sykes-Picot Treaty. The British attempted to appease both sides after colonization, but ultimately handed the conflict over to the UN who decided upon a two-state solution, upsetting Arabs. Israelis expanded their territory in two wars (Israeli-Arab War and Six Days War) leading to greater recognition of Israel by its neighbors (Camp David Accords), but also a reaffirmation of the two-state solution (Oslo accords). The conflict remains unresolved with Palestinians pushing for an independent state through the PLO and Hamas and Israelis continuing to settle in Palestinian territories.

## Characters

1. How did Gandhi fashion a new response to injustice in India?

Under British colonization, some wanted to work within the British government to bring change, while other wanted a violent revolution to bring independence. Unhappy with those options, Gandhi pushed for independence through nonviolent civil disobedience. He would disobey laws, like the Rowlatt Act and Salt Tax, he considered immoral in order to raise awareness of the injustice of the British rule. These acts of civil disobedience exposed the unjust British rule through the violence committed by the British to enforce their rule, most notoriously in the Amritsar Massacre. His movement was successful in pushing the British to give India independence, but his goal of bringing reconciliation was not as successful with fighting between Muslims and Hindus and little responsibility for the crisis by the British.

## Plot

1. Why was there a partition of India?

The British partitioned India into the two states of India and Pakistan because Hindus and Muslims distrusted each other. The Indian National Congress organized to push for independence, but the British ruled with a policy of “divide and conquer” that pitted Hindus and Muslims. British created suspicion and animosity between Muslims and Hindus so they would not fight British rule. Despite the Gandhi’s desire to create unified India for Hindus and Muslims, Jinnah was fearful of being a minority within a Hindu majority country. The fear and uncertainty between Muslims and Hindus won out with the partition of India.

## Resolution

1. How did Africa decolonize?

African decolonization began as African nationalist movement began to put pressure on European empires to let go of their political control. After centuries of political domination, economic exploitation, and social marginalization, Africans from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds developed a sense of African identity to counter this injustice. Kwame Nkrumah promoted Pan-Africanism as necessary to not only gain political independence, but economic and social independence from the ongoing influence of Western powers through neo-colonialism. Western neocolonialism promoted the rapid industrialization of Africa that ultimately put them in debt to Western powers. South Africa embodied the complex nature of European control through apartheid. It promoted White society by depriving Blacks of good land, education, and work and therefore Blacks, like Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress, were pushing for the end of an apartheid regime that prevented them from flourishing in all aspects of their life.