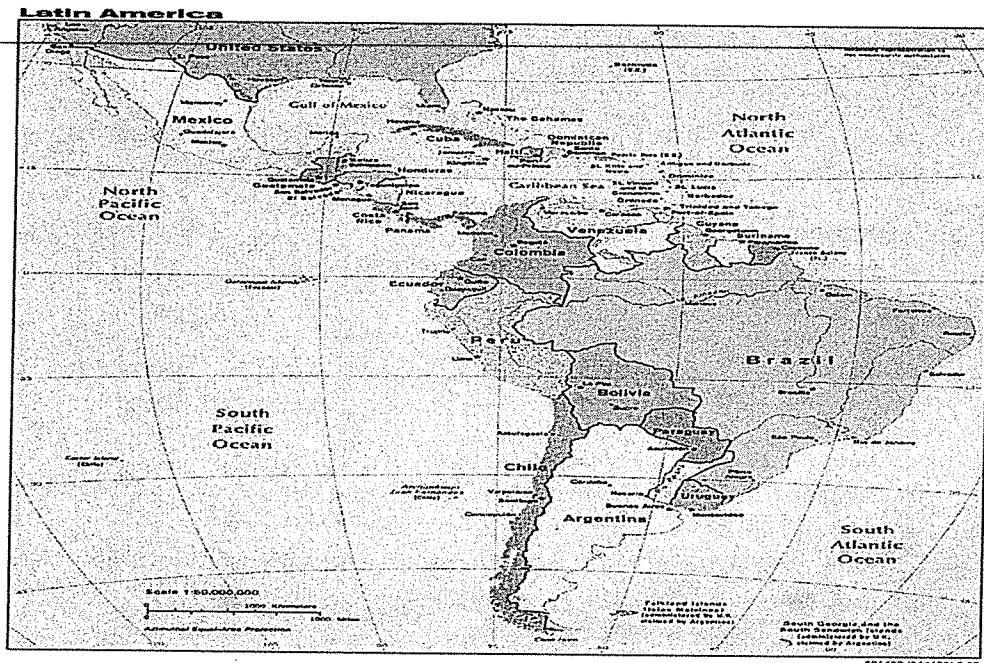


# Cold War Around the World: Latin America

## Task:

After you read the information below about the Cold War in Latin America, complete the discussion questions and **Data Sheet #1: Latin America**.



## Cuba

### The Bay of Pigs Invasion

In 1959, Fidel Castro overthrew the corrupt dictator, Fulgenicia Bautista and set up a Communist government in Cuba. The American government viewed Cuba as a threat to democracy in the Western Hemisphere. The CIA began to craft a plan to overthrow Castro using Cuban exiles who fled when the country became Communist. The CIA believed that once these American trained exiles landed on Cuba and began the rebellion to overthrow Castro, other Cubans would join as well. President Kennedy approved of the plan, and on April 17, 1961, the invasion began at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba. The plot was an absolute failure. Cubans did not join the rebellion as planned resulting in the exiles quick capture. Fidel Castro remained the Communist leader of Cuba.

### The Cuban Missile Crisis

On October 22, 1962 President Kennedy appeared before Americans to make a stunning announcement, missiles, supplied by the Soviet Union, were being placed on Cuba. This announcement frightened Americans because these missiles could hit virtually any city in America. President Kennedy immediately ordered that Cuba be blockaded, or surrounded, so that no more missiles could be placed in Cuba. He demanded from the Soviet Premier, Nikita Khrushchev, that all missiles be removed from Cuba. The world appeared to be on the brink of a nuclear war as Soviet ships moved dangerously close to the American blockade. Ultimately, the US and USSR was able to reach a compromise. In exchange for America's promise to never invade Cuba, the Soviet Union agreed to remove missiles from Cuba. The Cuban Missile Crisis was over.



## Chile

In 1970 the people of Chile elected Salvador Allende, a Socialist, to the office of president. Although Allende was elected by the Chilean people, U.S. president Richard Nixon believed that his election represented a Communist threat because the Soviet Union supported the Chilean Socialist Party. Working through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger authorized a “destabilization” Salvador Allende strategy. The CIA disrupted the Chilean economy, provided funds to newspapers critical of Allende, and encouraged Chilean military officers to organize a *coup*, a violent overthrow of the government.



As the result of CIA efforts, Allende was assassinated in 1973 and replaced by a brutally repressive but pro-U.S. dictatorship under General Augusto Pinochet. The new regime jailed or killed thousands of Allende supporters. For the next 20 years, the United States provided varying levels of military and economic support to Pinochet’s government. Support for Pinochet ensured that American corporations continued to profit from trade with Chile.

## Nicaragua



In 1979 Communist revolutionaries called Sandinistas overthrew a U.S.-backed dictatorship led by Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua. Somoza’s family had ruled Nicaragua through military terror and corruption for more than 40 years. However, Somoza’s government, though antidemocratic, had long proved a profitable setting for U.S. businesses. To promote American interests, U.S. president Ronald Reagan attempted to overthrow the Soviet- and Cuban-backed Sandinista government by supporting the counterrevolutionaries, called Contras, in Nicaragua. During the 1980s, under Reagan’s guidance, the United States supplied arms and training to the Contras. Most of the U.S. actions were secretly carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from a base in Honduras, a country bordering Nicaragua. In 1984 a discovery that the CIA had provided an assassination manual to the Contras caused public outcry. Because many members of Congress were concerned about Reagan’s policies and the methods used by the CIA and the Contras, Reagan often conducted his negotiations in secret. Illegally, and without consent from Congress, the Reagan administration secretly sold weapons to Iran and used the profits from the sales to help the Contras.

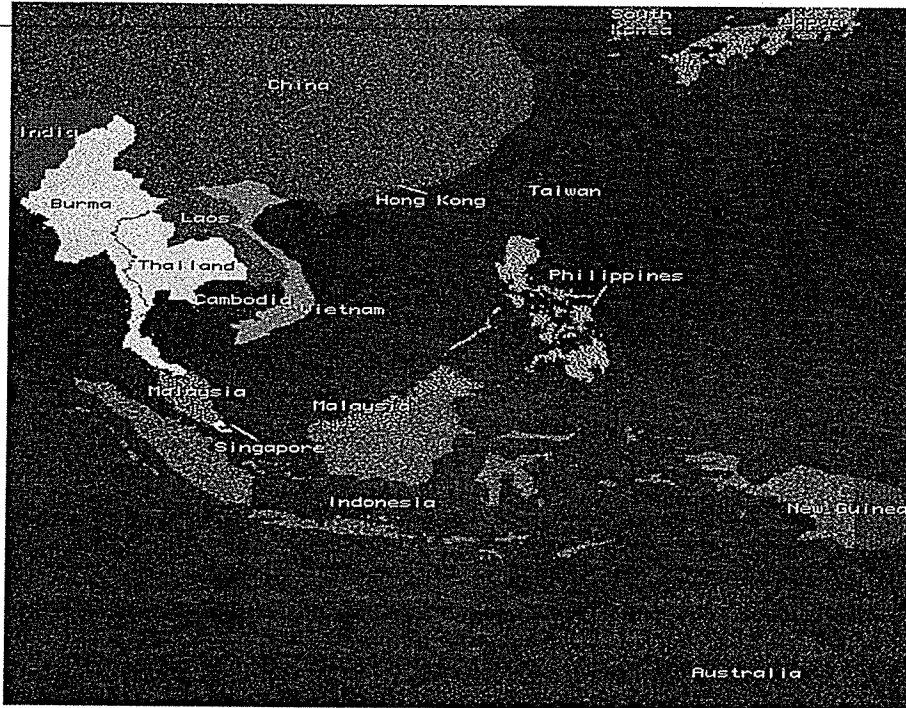
## Discussion Questions:

1. Which event above did the U.S. and the USSR come closest to nuclear war? Why?
2. Do you believe it was in the best interest of the U.S. to intervene in Chile during the Cold War? Why or why not? Was it in the best interest of Chile for the U.S. to intervene? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think Ronald Reagan intervened secretly in Nicaragua?

## Cold War Around the World: Southeast Asia

### Task

After you read the information below about the Cold War in Southeast Asia, complete the discussion questions and **Data Sheet #2: Southeast Asia**.



### Background:

For much of Vietnam's history it has been under foreign rule, primarily by the Chinese. In 1860, France began its domination of the area and had, by the late 19th century, implemented its colonization in a number of regions around the Gulf of Tonkin. During WWII, the Japanese government took control of much of the area and set up a puppet regime that was eventually forced out by the Vietnamese at the end of that war in 1945. In that year, Ho Chi Minh issued a Vietnamese Declaration of Independence modeling the American Declaration of Independence.



After WWII and until 1955, France fought hard to regain their former territories in the region, but with a poorly organized army and little determination among the troops, their efforts soon collapsed. The French were finally defeated at Dien Bien Phu on the 8th of May 1954 by the communist general Vo Nguyen Giap. The French troops withdrew, leaving a buffer zone separating the North and South and set up elections in order to form a government in the South as agreed upon in the Geneva Accords. The communist regime set up its headquarters in Hanoi under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh. Many North

Vietnamese left the country and fled south where the self-proclaimed president, Ngo Dinh Diem formed the Republic of Vietnam.



Between 1955 and 1960, the North Vietnamese with the assistance of the southern communist Vietcong, tried to take over the government in South Vietnam, and in November 1963 President Diem was overthrown and executed. The following year, the North Vietnamese

began a massive drive to conquer the whole country aided by China and Russia.

Fearing a communist takeover of the entire region, the United States grew more and more wary of the progress of Ho Chi Minh and the Vietcong. Communism had become the evil menace in the United States and with expansion of Soviet rule into Eastern Europe, Korea and Cuba, the Americans were bent on stopping communism from spreading any further.



### The Vietnam War

In 1964, North Vietnamese patrol boats had an encounter with American *SS Maddox* in which fire was exchanged. American President Johnson addressed Congress asking them to recognize America's duty to protect the world, including Southeast Asia, from the spread of communism. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was overwhelmingly passed in Congress paving the way for America's longest wartime involvement.

The Vietnam War was a war fought between 1964 and 1975 on the ground in South Vietnam and bordering areas of Cambodia and Laos, and in bombing runs over North Vietnam. Fighting on one side was a coalition of forces including the United States, the Republic of Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea. Fighting on the other side was a coalition of forces including the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front, a communist-led South Vietnamese guerrilla movement—also referred to as the Viet Cong. The USSR provided military aid to the North Vietnamese and to the NLF by using the Ho Chi Minh Trail, but was not one of the military combatants.

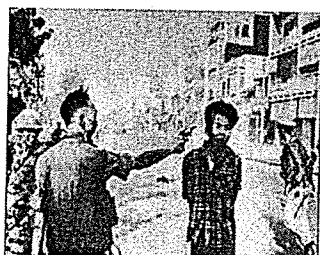
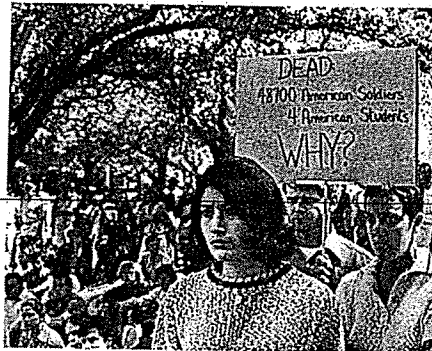
The war was part of a larger regional conflict involving the neighboring countries of Cambodia and Laos, known as the Second Indochina War. In Vietnam, this conflict is known as the American War (Vietnamese Chiến Tranh Chống Mỹ Cứu Nước, which translates into English as "War Against the Americans and to Save the Nation").

The continued escalation of American involvement came as the Johnson administration, as well as the commander of U.S. forces, General William Westmoreland, repeatedly assured the American public that the next round of troop increases would bring victory. The American public's faith in the "light at the end of the tunnel" was shattered, however, on January 30, 1968, when the enemy, supposedly on the verge of collapse, mounted the Tet Offensive (named after Tet Nguyen Dan, the lunar new year festival which is the most important Vietnamese holiday) in South Vietnam (and, to a lesser degree, in the 1969 Post-Tet Offensive). It involved military action in almost every major city in southern Vietnam and attacks on the U.S. firebase at Khe Sanh. The NVA suffered a heavy military defeat but scored a priceless propaganda victory.

The Marine base of Khe Sanh was in a siege for 77 days. About 5,000 Marines were surrounded by 40,000 North Vietnamese troops. The siege was in the eye of the public as desperate Marines bunkered

down and received supplies by air. The NVA dug trenches around the area ambushing Marines that patrolled out of the base. After 77 days, the siege ended when American Marines broke out.

The Communist forces had taken a series of military defeats. The US/ARVN forces had pacified much of the south by the end of 1967 (222 out of 242 provinces). Operation Junction City (February-March 1967) and other sweeps had seriously disrupted NLF activity in the south and forced the COSVN (communist command in South Vietnam) into Cambodia.



Although neither of these offensives accomplished any military objectives, the surprising capacity of an enemy that was supposedly on the verge of collapse to even launch such an offensive convinced many Americans that victory was impossible. Not helping the matter, on February 1, 1968, a suspected Viet Cong officer was summarily executed by Nguyen Ngoc Loan, a South Vietnamese National Police Chief. Loan shot the suspect in the head on a public street in front of journalists. The execution was filmed and photographed and helped sway public opinion in the United States against the war.

Massive protests by civilians, politicians, and military personnel divided America. President Nixon announced that he would reduce the number of troops in Vietnam, deescalating the war. Citing progress in peace negotiations, On January 15, 1973 President Nixon ordered a suspension of offensive action in North Vietnam which was later followed by the unilateral withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam. The Paris Peace Accords were later signed on January 27, 1973 which officially ended US involvement in the Vietnam conflict.

The peace agreements signed at the Paris Peace Accords did not last for very long. In early 1975 the North invaded the South and quickly consolidated the country under its control. Saigon fell on April 30, 1975. North Vietnam united North and South Vietnam on July 2, 1976 to form the "Socialist Republic of Vietnam". Hundreds of supporters of the South Vietnamese government were executed, thousands more were imprisoned. Saigon was immediately re-named to "Ho Chi Minh City", in honor of the former president of North Vietnam. Communist rule continues in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the present day.

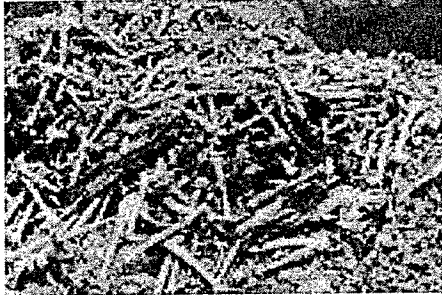


### ***The Killing Fields – Conflict in Cambodia***

In 1951 the Revolutionary Cambodian People's party was formed in Vietnam. The leader of the notorious group was Pol Pot, who had studied in France in the 1950s. He became a Communist there and studied with many of the men with whom he later led the party (the name of which was eventually changed to the Communist Party of Kampuchea and, later, the Democratic Party of Kampuchea). Cambodia's government during this time was led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who coined the name Khmer Rouge as a phrase meaning "red Khmer."



The Khmer Rouge assaulted Sihanouk's government beginning deep in Cambodia's jungle. When Vietnamese forces took over Sihanouk's government in 1970, Sihanouk joined forces with the Khmer Rouge. Together they tried to gain support in the countryside against the Vietnamese. A bitter civil war continued from 1970 to 1975. In 1975 the Khmer Rouge overran Phnom Penh and established their own government to rule the country. A new constitution legalized the Communist government and renamed the country Kampuchea. Sihanouk was under house arrest and left for exile in China. During the rule of the Khmer Rouge more than 1 million people were killed, and the professional and elite members of



society were almost completely eliminated. The jungle, where an idyllic agrarian society was to be formed, came to be called "the killing fields." When they were overthrown by Vietnamese troops in 1979, Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge retreated to the countryside and, aided by China, continued to wage guerrilla warfare near the Thai border.

The new government installed by Vietnam began in 1979 to recapture parts of the country from Khmer Rouge control. It was a difficult process, as the Khmer Rouge was still active. In 1982 the Khmer Rouge joined in coalition with two other Khmer groups that were not Communist but opposed the Vietnamese-backed central government. By the late 1980s the Vietnamese were preparing to withdraw from the country, and in 1989 Kampuchea's name was changed back to Cambodia. In the early 1990s there were four groups fighting for control of Cambodia. They all agreed to a cease-fire, and the United Nations stepped in to supervise elections in 1993. The Khmer Rouge boycotted the elections, which were won by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the son of Norodom Sihanouk, who was reestablished as king by the 1993 constitution. Hun Sen, leader of the Cambodian People's party, fought for and won the opportunity to share power with Ranariddh. Both men were accused of trying to bring former Khmer guerrillas into their parties.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What country dominated Vietnam beginning in 1890? When and where did the Vietnamese finally defeat this country?
2. The Vietnam War was the most protested war in U.S. history and the only war the U.S. has ever lost. Do you believe that the United States should have intervened in the Vietnam War? Why or Why not?
3. Do you think the United States should have intervened in Cambodia? Why or why not?

## Cold War Around the World: The Middle East

### Task:

After you read the information below about the Cold War in Latin America, complete the discussion questions and **Data Sheet #3: The Middle East**.

### Background

The Middle East in the Cold War was an area of extreme importance and also great instability. The region lay directly south of the Soviet Union and Russia traditionally had great influence in Turkey and Iran. The area also had vast reserves of oil, not crucial for either superpower in the 1950s, but essential for the rapidly rebuilding American allies in Europe and Japan.



### Egypt

The original American plan for the Middle East was to form a defensive perimeter along the north of the region. Thus signed the Baghdad Pact and joined CENTO (Central Treaty Organization). The Soviet response was to seek influence in countries such as Syria and Egypt. Egypt, a former British protectorate, was one of the region's most important prizes with a large population and political power throughout the region.



In the 1950s, both east and west offered aid to Egypt to build the Aswan High Dam on the Nile River. The west canceled its offer, however, after Egypt bought weapons from the communist government of Czechoslovakia. Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser then seized control of the company that operated the Suez Canal. A few months later, Israel invaded Egypt. France and Britain joined the invasion. For once, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed on a major issue. Both supported a United Nations resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire. The Suez Crisis was a political victory for the Soviets. When the

Soviet Union supported Egypt, it gained new friends in the Arab world.



## Iran

The United States also reacted with alarm as it watched developments in Iran, which had been in a state of instability since 1951.

Through the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC), the British had a monopoly (no competition) on the transporting, pumping, and refining of oil in most of Iran. The company paid production royalties (percentage of the profit) to the government of the Shah of Iran—placed on the throne by the British in 1941. But the royalties and salaries to Iranian employees were smaller, considering that the company's earnings were ten times greater than its expenses. Iran suffered from poverty, and nationalists insisted that placing the company under Iranian control would help the Iranian economy.

Many Iranians demanded that a higher share of the company's earnings be paid. In response, the AIOC replied that it had a binding agreement with the Shah until 1993, and worked with some Iranian political forces to create a report opposing nationalization (government ownership). In February 1951, the Iranian prime minister, suspected of being involved with the report—was assassinated and replaced by nationalist Mohammed Mossadegh. Later that year the new prime minister nationalized his nation's British-owned oil wells. The United States reacted with alarm as it watched Mossadegh begin to confront Western-owned oil corporations in Iran.

As the Iranians moved toward taking the oil reserves, the Truman administration attempted to settle the dispute. Later, the Eisenhower administration, convinced that Iran was developing communist ties, used the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), joining forces with Iran's military leaders to overthrow Iran's government. Mossadegh drew on the Tudeh, Communist Party of Iran, for much of his support. However, by 1953 the party had begun to criticize him as a U.S. "puppet." Since the Tudeh was the strongest Communist party in the Middle East at this time, the Eisenhower administration claimed to fear a first Communist takeover in the Middle East. The Mossadegh hoped that as Iran's economy suffered and fears of Communist takeover gripped Washington, the U.S. would rescue him.

To replace Mossadegh, the U.S. favored the young Mohammed Reza Pahlevi. In return, Pahlevi promised to allow U.S. companies to share in the development of his nation's reserves. According to CIA documents finally made public in 2000, the U.S. provided guns, trucks, armored cars, and radio communications in the CIA-assisted 1953 coup (overthrow), which elevated Pahlevi from his position as that of a constitutional monarch to that of an absolute ruler. With Mossadegh out of the way, oil profits were then divided between the Shah's regime and a new international consortium; in turn the British were awarded 40% of the country's oil revenues, five U.S. firms won another 40%. The profits were divided evenly between the consortium and Iran.





## *Afghanistan*

The Soviet war in Afghanistan was a nine-year conflict that began in 1979 involving Soviet forces supporting Afghanistan's Marxist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) government against the Mujahideen insurgents that were fighting to overthrow Communist rule. The Soviet Union supported the government while the rebels found support from a variety of sources including the United States, Pakistan and other Muslim nations in the context of the Cold War. The United States had armed the rebels because they considered the Soviets invasion a threat to the rich Middle Eastern oil supplies. The U.S. President Jimmy Carter warned the Soviets that the U.S. would use "any means necessary including military force" to repel the Soviets. The U.S. never used military force but limited its response to an embargo of grain to the Soviet Union. It also boycotted the 1980 summer Olympic Games in Moscow.



The Soviet Union first invaded Afghanistan on December 25, 1979. The final troop withdrawal began on May 15, 1988, and ended on February 15, 1989. Due to the high cost of this conflict for this Cold War superpower, the Soviet war in Afghanistan has often been referred to as the equivalent of the United States' Vietnam War.

### *Discussion Questions:*

1. Why did France, Britain and Israel invade Egypt? Why was the U.S. opposed to their invasion?
2. Why did Mossadegh of Iran support the communists?
3. Why is the Soviet war in Afghanistan compared with the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War?

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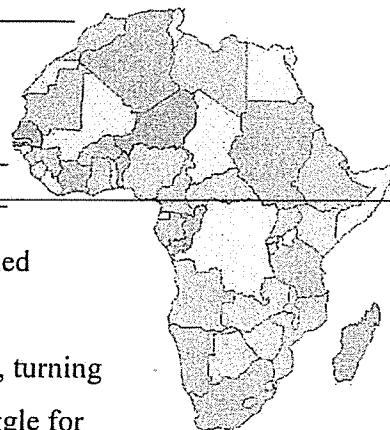
## Cold War Around the World: Africa

### Task

After you read the information below about the Cold War in Africa complete the discussion questions and **Data Sheet #4: Africa**.

### Introduction:

While in the West and in the Eastern Bloc the nuclear threat bred anxiety and hardened political ideologies, in the developing world the Cold War was a covert (not openly acknowledged) but deeply pervasive struggle. Here, East and West battled by proxy, turning friends and allies abroad into Cold Warriors on their behalf. Across Africa, the struggle for dominance between the forces of capitalism and communism sparked coups and revolutions, fuelled rivalries with 'aid and assistance', and brought about political divisions through spying and 'dirty tricks'. It was on these distant battlefields that the Cold War was fought.



### Congo

Congo was a colony of Belgium through World War II. Belgium's granting of independence in 1960 to the Congo resulted in upheaval. Patrice Lumumba (prime minister) ruled a divide country. In the mineral-rich southeastern province of Katanga, a local leader named Moise Tshombe declared that region's independence from Congo.

Tshombe was backed by Belgian mining interests. Lumumba, with communist connections first appealed to the United Nations for help in putting down Tshombe's rebellion. He then turned to the Soviet Union for aid. Colonel Mobutu Sese Soko overthrew Lumumba and turned him over to his enemy, Tshombe and Lumumba was murdered.

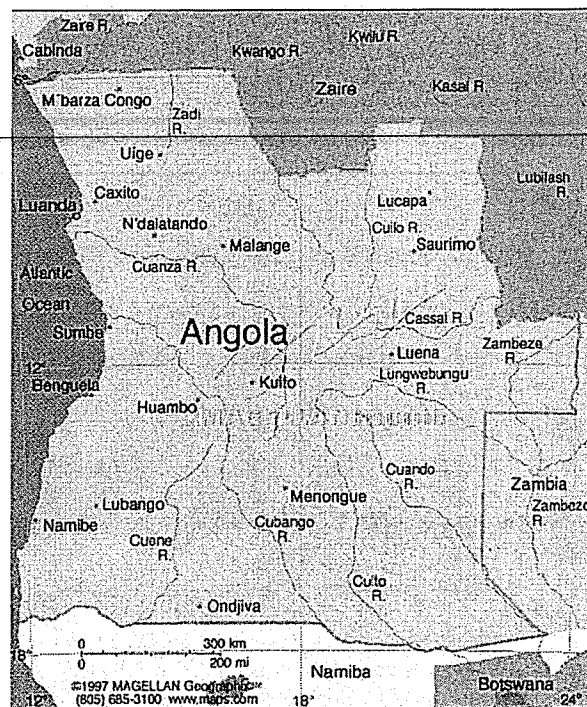


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Mobutu murdered Tshombe and seized power in a bloodless coup (overthrow) in 1965. Mobutu, a dictator was friendly with the U.S. and was able to rule for 32 years in Congo, which was remained Zaire. Zaire (Congo) had the mineral wealth and natural resources to make it one of the richest countries in Africa. It was reduced under Mobutu's rule to one of the continent's poorest. Laurent Kabila finally overthrew him in 1997 after a seven-month long civil war.

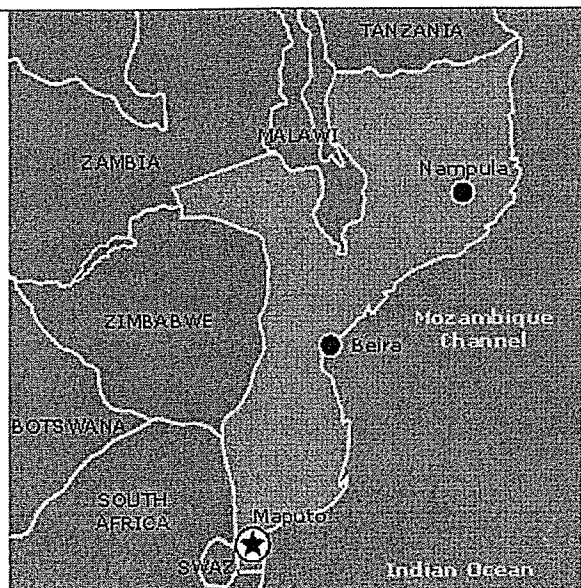
## Angola

The Portuguese had poorly colonized Angola for hundreds of years. The Portuguese withdrew from Angola in 1975 without formally handing over power to anyone. The lack of preparation for independence in Angola was complicated by the communist seizure of power. The MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) took control of the capital, Luanda. The communist MPLA declared itself the rightful government. This led to a prolonged civil war among various rebel groups. Each group received help from outside sources. The MPLA was assisted by 50,000 Cuban troops provided by the Soviet Union. The FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola), which eventually faded away, was backed by Zaire and U.S. The major opposition to the MPLA was UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), which was assisted by South Africa and the United States.



In 1988, the United States with a nod from the Soviet Union pressed for a settlement among the MPLA, UNITA, South Africa, and Cuba and for the evacuation of Cuban troops. A shaky cease-fire went into effect in June 1989. The different groups continued to feel ill at ease with one another. However, in 1995, they began discussions about representation of each group in the government.

## Mozambique



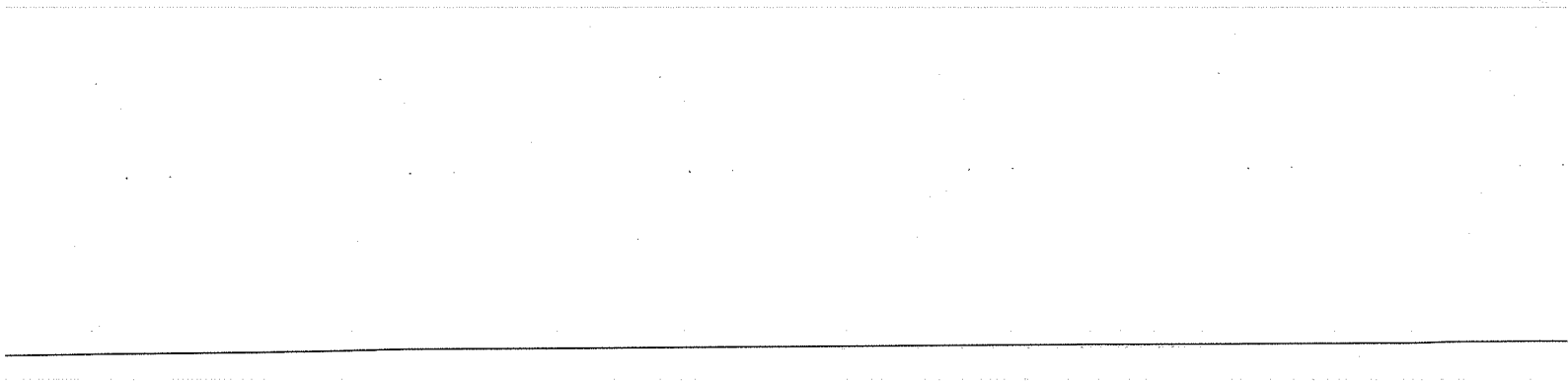
After World War II, while many European nations were granting independence to their colonies, Portugal maintained that Mozambique and other Portuguese possessions were overseas provinces of the mother country, and emigration to the colonies soared. Calls for Mozambican independence developed apace, and in 1962 several anti-colonial political groups formed the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO), which started an armed campaign against

Portuguese colonial rule in September 1964. However, Portugal had occupied the country for more than four hundred years; not all Mozambicans desired independence, and fewer still sought change through armed revolution. Despite arms shipments by China and the Soviet Union, FRELIMO and other loosely linked armed guerilla forces proved no match for Portuguese counterinsurgency forces. After ten years of sporadic warfare, FRELIMO had not made much progress towards capturing either significant amounts of territory or population centers. After a socialist-inspired military coup in Portugal overthrew the dictatorship in 1974, Portugal affirmed its desire to grant independence to its remaining colonies. Mozambique became independent on June 25, 1975.

The last thirty years of Mozambique's history have reflected political developments elsewhere in the 20th century. Following the coup in Lisbon, Portuguese withdrew from Mozambique. In Mozambique, the military decision to withdraw occurred within the context of a decade of armed anti-colonial struggle, initially led by American-educated Eduardo Mondlane, who was assassinated in 1969. When independence was achieved in 1975, FRELIMO rapidly established a one-party state allied to the Soviet bloc and outlawed rival political activity. FRELIMO eliminated political parties, religious educational institutions, and the role of traditional authorities.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think the Soviet Union and the U.S. intervened in the Congo during the Cold War?
2. What could have been done in Angola to prevent a civil war?
3. Do you think that the U.S. and the Soviet Union had a right to intervene in African nations civil wars? Why or why not?

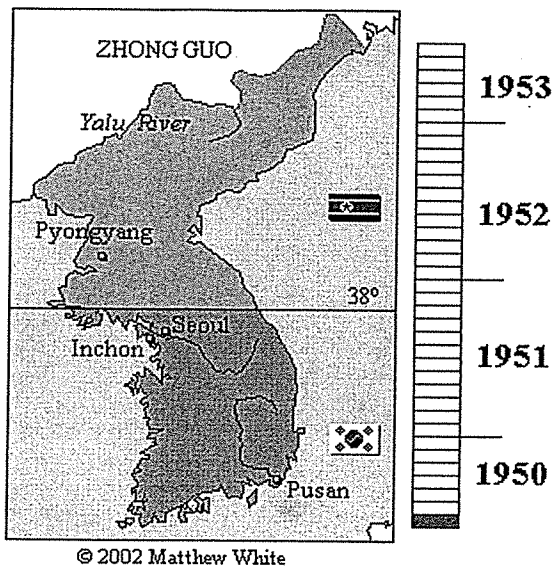


## Cold War Around the World: The Korean War 1950-1953

### Task

After you read the information below about the Cold War in Korea, complete the discussion question and **Data Sheet #5: The Korean War**

### Introduction:



At the Yalta Conference after WWII, a decision was made over Korea. Korea would be divided at the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. The USSR was to occupy North Korea, U.S. would occupy the South. A vote by the Koreans would determine its future, but the election never happened.

### Invasion: June- September 1950

In the pre-dawn hours of June 25, 1950, North Korea sent an invasion force across the 38th parallel into South Korea. The Northern forces rapidly advanced southward against the ill-equipped defenders, taking the Southern capital Seoul three days after the invasion began. The United Nations condemned North Korea's attack. The Soviet Union, Pyongyang's mentor, was boycotting the U.N. Security Council at the time -- and was thus unable to veto the council's condemnation, which set up a U.N. force to help defend South Korea.

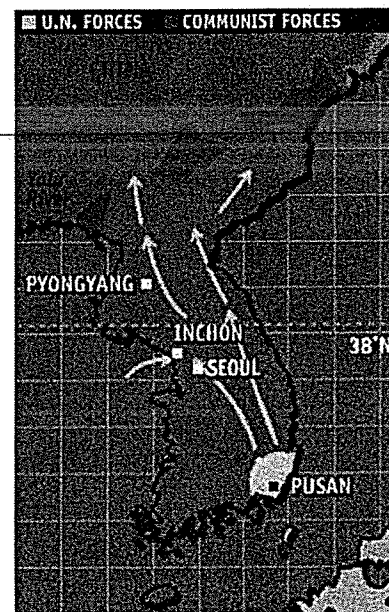
The United States led the U.N. force in the so-called "police action" against North Korea. But four U.S. divisions, rushed to the Korean peninsula to stop the Northern attack, could do little against a superior force. The U.N. forces were soon forced back to a perimeter around the southern port city of Pusan by early August.



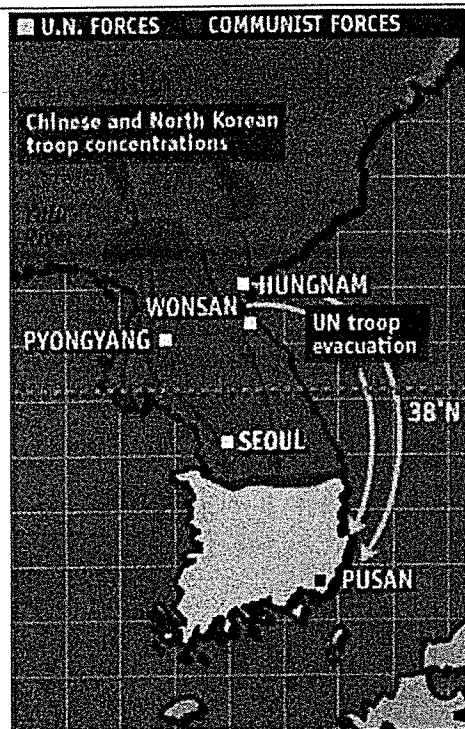


### *Counterattack: September – October 1950*

U.N. forces, under the command of U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, landed at the port of Inchon near Seoul on September 15, 1950. The landing cut off much of the North Korean army, which was attempting to force a way into the Pusan Perimeter. U.N. forces, breaking out from Pusan and coming south from Inchon, were able to overwhelm the Northern troops in South Korea. Seoul was taken by U.N. forces on September 26. U.N. forces moved north of the 38th parallel, capturing the Northern capital Pyongyang on October 19. Despite warnings from China that it would not accept the presence of U.N. troops in North Korea, MacArthur continued to move his forces northward -- with the announced intention of unifying the Korean peninsula. Some U.N. forces reached the Yalu River -- the border between North Korea and China -- on October 25.



### *Chinese Advance*



In late October 1950, while China was issuing its warnings, a large Chinese force had already entered North Korea. U.N. forces began encountering Chinese troops at that time.

On November 24, MacArthur announced what he believed would be the final offensive of the war, which he said would "restore peace and unity to Korea."

The next day, a Chinese force estimated at between 130,000 and 300,000 attacked the U.N. forces -- quickly pushing them southward in a disorderly retreat. The U.N. abandoned Pyongyang on December 4.

Some 20,000 U.S. Marines and Army infantry fought their way out of a Chinese encirclement at the Changjin Reservoir. The U.S. Navy evacuated tens of thousands of refugees and U.N. personnel from the ports of Hungnam and Wonsan.

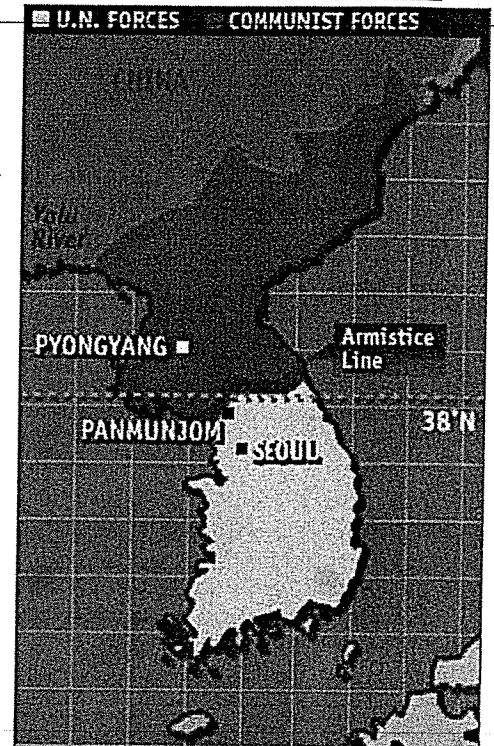
Communist forces invaded South Korea for the second time in the war on December 31, 1950. Seoul was recaptured on January 4, 1951. U.N. forces stopped the Chinese-North Korean advance about 30 miles south of Seoul and began a counteroffensive by month's end.

#### *Armistice:* January 1951-July 1953

U.N. forces reoccupied Seoul in March 1951. From there they were able to advance slightly north of the 38th parallel. In April, MacArthur -- who had openly disagreed with President Truman over how to conduct the war -- was relieved of his command.

Truce talks began on July 10, 1951. By that time, the war had become static -- with neither side making any real advances. Disagreement over several issues, including the exchange of prisoners, delayed the signing of an armistice for another two years.

By the time the armistice was signed in 1953, U.N. casualties were estimated at more than 550,000 -- while North Korean and Chinese casualties were believed to be around 1.5 million. As part of the cease-fire, both sides agreed to withdraw 2 kilometers along the final battleground and establish a demilitarized zone along the armistice line -- a zone that still exists today.



#### Discussion Questions:

1. Why did North Korea attack South Korea and why did the U.S. try to stop them?
2. Was the Korean War ever declared a war by Congress?
3. Did anyone win the Korean War? Explain.

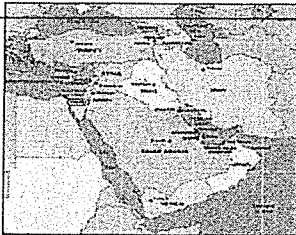


# Cold War Around the World: Israel

## Task:

After you read the information below about the Cold War in Latin America, complete the discussion questions and **Data Sheet #6: Israel**.

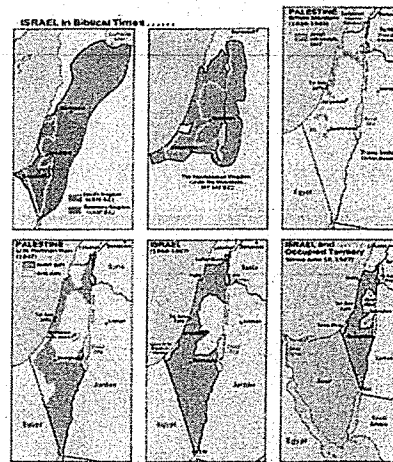
## Introduction



In the years following World War II, the Jewish people won what for so long had eluded them: their own state. The gaining of their homeland along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, however, came at a heavy price. A Jewish state was unwelcome in this mostly Arab region, and the resulting hostility led to a series of wars. Perhaps no Arab people however have been more opposed to a Jewish state than the Palestinians, who claim that much of the Jewish land belongs to them. These two groups have waged a bloody battle that goes on today.

## ISRAEL BECOMES A STATE

The land called Palestine now consists of Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. To Jews, their claim to the land dates back 3,000 years, when Jewish kings ruled the region from Jerusalem. To Palestinians (both Muslim and Christian), the land has belonged to them since the Jews were driven out around A.D. 135. To Arabs, the land has belonged to them since their conquest of the area in the 7th century. After being forced out of Palestine during the second century, the Jewish people were not able to establish their own state and lived in different countries throughout the world. The global dispersal of the Jews is known as the Diaspora. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a group of Jews began returning to the region their ancestors had fled so long ago. They were known as Zionists, people who favored a Jewish national homeland in Palestine. At this time, Palestine was still part of the Ottoman Empire, ruled by Islamic Turks. After the defeat of the Ottomans in World War I, the League of Nations asked Britain to oversee Palestine until it was ready for independence. By this time, the Jews had become a growing presence in Palestine, and were already pressing for their own nation in the territory. The Palestinians living in the region strongly opposed such a move. In a 1917 letter to Zionist leaders, British Foreign Secretary Sir Arthur Balfour promoted the idea of creating a Jewish homeland in Palestine while protecting the "rights of existing non-Jewish communities." Despite the Balfour Declaration, however, efforts to create a Jewish state failed. Hostility between Palestinians and Jews continued to grow.



At the end of World War II, the United Nations took up the matter. In 1947, the UN General Assembly voted for a partition of Palestine into a Palestinian state and a Jewish state. Jerusalem was to be an international city owned by neither side. The terms of the partition gave Jews 55 percent of the area even though they made up only 34 percent of the population. In the wake of the war and the Holocaust, the United States and many European nations felt great sympathy for the Jews. All of the Islamic countries voted against partition, and the Palestinians rejected it outright. They argued that the UN did not have the right to partition a country without considering the wishes of the majority of its people. Finally, the date was set for the formation of Israel, May 14, 1948. On that date, David Ben Gurion, long-time leader of the Jews residing in Palestine announced the creation of an independent Israel.

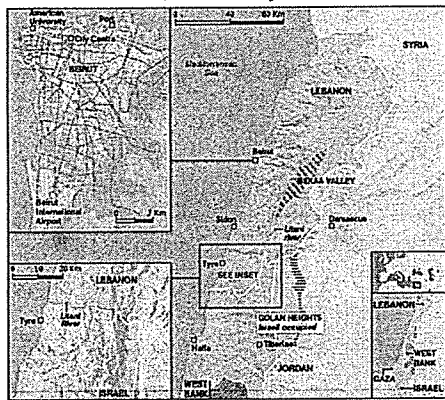
## ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES IN CONFLICT

The new nation of Israel got a hostile greeting from its neighbors. The day after it proclaimed itself a state, six Islamic states—Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria—invaded Israel. The first of many Arab-Israeli wars, this one ended within months in a victory for Israel. Full-scale war broke out again in 1956, 1967,

and 1973. Largely as a result of this fighting, the state that the UN had set aside for Palestinians never came into being. Israel seized half the land in the 1948–1949 fighting. While the fighting raged, at least 600,000 Palestinians fled, migrating from the areas under Israeli control. They settled in UN-sponsored refugee camps that ringed the borders of their former homeland. Meanwhile, various Arab nations seized other Palestinian lands. Egypt took control of the Gaza Strip, while Jordan annexed the West Bank of the Jordan River. The 1956 Suez Crisis The second Arab-Israeli war followed in 1956. That year, Egypt seized control of the Suez Canal, which ran along Egypt's eastern border between the Gulf of Suez and the Mediterranean Sea. Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser sent in troops to take the canal, which was controlled by British interests. The military action was prompted in large part by Nasser's anger over the loss of U.S. and British financial support for the building of Egypt's Aswan Dam.

Outraged, the British made an agreement with France and Israel to retake the canal. With air support provided by their European allies, the Israelis marched on the Suez Canal and quickly defeated the Egyptians. However, pressure from the world community, including the United States and the Soviet Union, forced Israel and the Europeans to withdraw from Egypt. This left Egypt in charge of the canal and thus ended the Suez Crisis.

Arab-Israeli Wars Continue Tensions between Israel and the Arab states began to build again in the years following the resolution of the Suez Crisis. By early 1967, Nasser and his Arab allies, equipped with Soviet tanks and aircraft, felt ready to confront Israel. "We are eager for battle in order to force the enemy to awake



from his dreams," Nasser announced, "and meet Arab reality face to face." He moved to close off the Gulf of Aqaba, Israel's outlet to the Red Sea. Convinced that the Arabs were about to attack, the Israelis struck airfields in Egypt, Iran, Jordan, and Syria. Safe from air attack, Israeli ground forces struck like lightning on three fronts. Israel defeated the Arab states in what became known as the Six-Day War, because it was over in six days. Israel lost 800 troops in the fighting, while Arab losses exceeded 15,000. As a consequence of the Six-Day War, Israel gained control of the old city of Jerusalem, the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, and the West Bank. Israelis saw these new holdings along their southern, eastern, and western borders as a key buffer zone against further Arab attacks. Palestinians who lived in Jerusalem were given the choice

of Israeli or Jordanian citizenship. Most chose the latter. Palestinians who lived in the other areas were not offered Israeli citizenship and simply came under Jewish control. A fourth Arab-Israeli conflict erupted in October 1973. Nasser's successor, Egyptian president Anwar Sadat planned a joint Arab attack on the date of Yom Kippur, the holiest of Jewish holidays. This time the Israelis were caught by surprise. Arab forces inflicted heavy casualties and recaptured some of the territory lost in 1967. The Israelis, under their prime minister, Golda Meir, launched a counterattack and regained most of the lost territory. Both sides agreed to

a truce after several weeks of fighting, and the Yom Kippur war came to an end. The Palestine Liberation Organization As Israel and its Arab neighbors struggled for recognition. While the United Nations had granted the Palestinians much of that land, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, during its various wars. Israel insisted that such a move was vital to its national security. In 1964, Palestinian officials formed the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to push for the formation of a Palestinian state. Originally, the PLO was an umbrella organization made up of different groups—laborers, teachers, lawyers, and guerrilla fighters. Soon, guerrilla groups came to dominate the organization and insisted that the only way to achieve their goal was through armed struggle. In 1969 Yasir Arafat became chairman of the PLO. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s the group carried out numerous attacks against Israel. Some of Israel's Arab neighbors supported the organization's goals by allowing the PLO to operate from their lands.



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## EFFORTS AT PEACE

In November 1977, just four years after the Yom Kippur war, Anwar Sadat stunned the world by extending a hand to Israel. No Arab country up to this point had recognized Israel's right to exist. In a dramatic gesture, Sadat went before the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, and invited his one-time enemies to join him in a quest for peace. Sadat emphasized that in exchange for peace Israel would have to recognize the rights of Palestinians. Furthermore, it would have to withdraw from territory seized in 1967 from Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. U.S. president Jimmy Carter recognized that Sadat had created a historic opportunity for peace. In 1978, Carter invited Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Camp David, the presidential retreat in rural Maryland. Isolated from the press and from domestic political pressures, Sadat and Begin worked to reach an agreement. After 13 days of negotiations, Carter triumphantly announced that Egypt recognized Israel as a legitimate state. In exchange, Israel agreed to return the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt. Signed in 1979, the Camp David Accords ended 30 years of hostilities between Egypt and Israel and became the first signed agreement between Israel and an Arab country. While world leaders praised Sadat, his peace initiative enraged many Arab countries. In 1981, a group of Muslim extremists assassinated him. However, Egypt's new leader, Hosni Mubarak has worked to maintain peace with Israel. Israeli-Palestinian Tensions Increase One Arab group that continued to clash with the Israelis was the Palestinians, a large number of whom lived in the West Bank and Gaza Strip—lands occupied by Israel.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the military wing of the PLO intensified its armed struggle against Israel. Israel responded forcefully, bombing suspected rebel bases in Palestinian towns. In 1982, the Israeli army went as far as invading the neighboring country of Lebanon in an attempt to destroy Palestinian strongholds. The Israelis soon became involved in Lebanon's civil war and were forced to withdraw. In 1987, Palestinians began to express their frustrations in a widespread campaign of civil disobedience called the intifada, or "uprising." The intifada took the form of boycotts, demonstrations, attacks on Israeli soldiers, and rock throwing by unarmed teenagers. The intifada continued into the 1990s, with little progress made toward a solution. However, the civil disobedience affected world opinion, which, in turn, put pressure on Israel to seek negotiations with the Palestinians. Finally, in October 1991, Israeli and Palestinian delegates met for a series of peace talks.

The Oslo Peace Accords Negotiations between the two sides made little progress, as the status of the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel proved to be a bitterly divisive issue. In 1993, however, secret talks held in Oslo, Norway, produced a surprise agreement: a document called the Declaration of Principles, also known as the Oslo Peace Accords. Israel, under the leadership of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, agreed to grant the Palestinians self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, beginning with the town of Jericho. Rabin and Arafat signed the agreement on September 13, 1993 the difficulty of making the agreement work was demonstrated by the assassination of Rabin in 1995. A right-wing Jewish extremist who opposed concessions to the Palestinians killed him. Benjamin Netanyahu, who had opposed the Oslo Accords, succeeded Rabin as prime minister. Still, Netanyahu made efforts to keep to the agreement. In January 1997, Netanyahu met with Arafat to work out plans for a partial Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think the Palestinians have a right to a homeland? Why or why not?
2. What do you think needs to be done to bring peace to the Middle East?



