

25. Africa – The Independence

After WWII manufacturing in the *Union of South Africa* (today's RSA) expanded enormously => many airfields (airports) constructed.

Africans who joined the allied forces were promised better conditions after the war (fights in Ethiopia against the Italians).

1956 = *Suez affair*:

- growing Egyptian population needed more food => construction of *Aswan dam* by revolutionary government occupying Suez canal and obtaining profit from oil shipped from the Persian Gulf to Europe
- but British, French and Israeli wanted to seize control of the Canal => pressure from the *USSR* and the *USA* forced them to withdraw and Egyptians were left to hold the Canal

1960: *majority of the African colonies became independent*

- Malawi and Zambia (Northern Rhodesia) should have been joined together – this has never happened.
- Zimbabwe = Southern Rhodesia
- Algeria = linked with France a lot (millions of white people were living there). Independent since 1962 – Muslims forced Europeans to go away.
- Congo (Zaire) demanded independence and was granted it by Belgium. Congo fell into a state of anarchy from which it has yet to recover.
- Nigeria = tribal differences + political rivalry → *murders and plunders*.

1975: Mozambique, Angola and Guinea became independent

1990s: the end of bipolar world = many civil wars came to an end because:

- ❑ there were no money to encourage a civil war (Mozambique)
- ❑ USSR stopped supporting some conflicts ⇔ its own economic and social problems
- ❑ Cuban troops left Angola and the way was opened for Namibian independence

1994: the end of apartheid in RSA – Black majority was enabled to participate in government.

Fastest-growing countries:

- ❖ Namibia – tourism
- ❖ Tunisia - tourism
- ❖ Botswana – mineral wealth

Economic development

= in colonial times and since independence: money coming into widespread use, improvements in transport, communications, water supplies, less diseases, longer life expectancy, spread of education.

Trade between African countries has never been very important ⇔ they all tend to produce the same kinds of things.

Exception – RSA – supplied the needs of neighbouring countries for manufactured goods and those countries have supplied labour for the mines in the RSA.