

# Conflict and Independence

*The 20<sup>th</sup> Century since 1945: Promises  
and Paradoxes (1945–Present)*



India and South Asia

China and Southeast Asia

The Middle East

Africa

Latin America

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about decolonization and independence in India and South Asia and be able to answer these key questions:

- What caused decolonization and independence around the world?
- What led to Indian independence and how has the country developed since?
- How have Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka developed?



In order to contextualize the period of decolonization and independence after World War II, use this timeline to recap previous key historical events.

Either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline to find out information about what happened in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

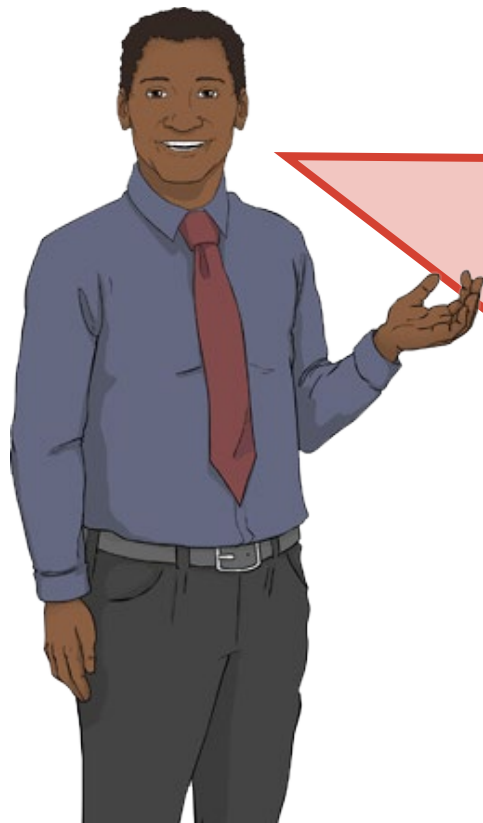
**start**







**World War II** brought sweeping changes to all parts of the world, both during the war and afterwards. Due to colonial ties, the majority of the world's countries fought in the war.



The destruction of Europe damaged the reputation of imperialist powers in the eyes of their colonies. Within ruined Europe, colonies were also increasingly perceived to be an unnecessary expense. Coupled with growing calls for independence and a change in the attitude of colonial powers, this led to a period of rapid decolonization.

What challenges did former colonies face?



After World War II, the end of colonialism and imperialism saw many countries gain independence. Can you match each term to the correct definition?  
Press **start** to begin.

**start**



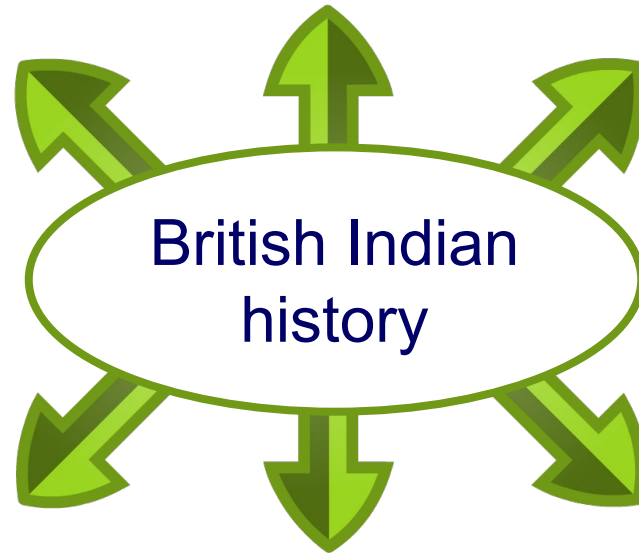


India had long been a key part of the British Empire, but calls for independence increased during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century:

**Government of India Act** in 1935 granted India provincial autonomy

Gandhi practised **satyagraha** – non-violent civil disobedience

Many Indians fought and died in **World War I**



Independence movement led by **Mohandas Gandhi**

1917 **Montagu Declaration** promised India dominion status

British fears of a revolt led to the **Amritsar massacre** in 1919



Can you remember why each of these was important?





Indian soldiers were conscripted to fight for Britain during World War II. This was opposed by Indian nationalists and Britain agreed to grant India independence after the war in return for cooperation.

The country was predominantly Hindu with some areas dominated by Muslims. By 1946, the country was in chaos caused by the violence between the two sides arguing over who would receive power.



The British government agreed that the best solution would be a partition into separate Muslim and Hindu countries. India became independent on 15 August, 1947.

Which countries was India divided into?





# The partition of India

British India was a much larger area than India is today. When India was granted independence in 1947, it was partitioned into two separate countries.

Drag each country to the correct location on the map. Press the information buttons to find out about independence in each country.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





**Jawaharlal Nehru** became India's first prime minister. He developed a democratic, unified country with a parliamentary government and supported modernization and social reform among India's **castes**. He took major industry under state control, tripling output between 1950 and 1965.



In foreign policy, India remained neutral during the **Cold War**. India's population has grown rapidly since independence, contributing to widespread poverty and the growth of huge slums.

Since the 1990s, India's economy has grown massively as it has adopted more of a free market economy. It is currently the world's 9<sup>th</sup> biggest economy and continues to grow rapidly.

How does a free market encourage economic growth?



Since gaining independence, India has been ruled by several influential leaders and has increasingly become a global power. Can you match each Indian leader to their portrait and description?

Press **start** to begin.

**start**







# Pakistan and Bangladesh

After receiving independence from Britain in 1947, Pakistan was a new country, divided into two parts. In time, these two countries separated to become Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Press the buttons to find out about the countries of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





The first conflict between India and Pakistan over the disputed territory of **Kashmir** ended in 1948, with the **United Nations (UN)** intervening to establish a boundary.



Since then, there have been several other conflicts in the region, including in 1965, 1971 and 1999. By the last conflict, both sides had successfully tested nuclear weapons, increasing the threat of war.

India still claims the whole of the region, while Pakistan asserts Kashmir is a predominantly Muslim region and its people either want to join Pakistan or be independent.

Do you know any other areas of the world where religious and ethnic problems have led to conflict?



# Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, is an island off the southern coast of India. It gained independence from Britain in 1948 and has since experienced turmoil, including a 26-year civil war.

The majority of the population is Buddhist, while a minority is Hindu. Some militant Hindus fought a civil war for independence from 1983 to 2009, though it ended in their defeat.

The war had a huge economic and social cost, as thousands of soldiers and civilians were killed. Sri Lanka is a democracy and was the first country in the world to elect a female leader, **Sirimavo Bandaranaike**.

