Nationalism and the Nation State
**Nationalism** is commonly defined as a love for one's country.  Historically, however, nationalism takes on a far greater meaning.  Throughout history, large groups of people who share a **cultural** identity (language, customs, history) have felt the pulling power of nationalistic feeling.  The spirit of nationalism also includes the belief that one's nation is better off as an autonomous state.  **Autonomy** is defined as a nation governing itself independently from a **centralized** point.  Still another aspect of nationalism is the willingness to go to extreme measures in achieving autonomous self-rule.  **Revolutions**, wars, ethnic tension, and other conflicts of varying degrees have occurred throughout history because of a love for one's country.  The spirit of nationalism has shaped the histories and destinies of many countries.  Nationalism can unite people into cohesive, stable nations.  Likewise, it can tear nations apart which can result in long periods of social upheaval and political chaos.

Background
**Nationalism** in Europe can be traced back to the decline of**feudalism** and the beginning of the **Renaissance**.  Feudalistic societies are decentralized, meaning political control is spread out and does not come from one strong, stable place.  When feudalism declined, larger areas of land were being controlled by fewer, more powerful individuals.  A good example of nationalism supporting the rise of a single person is the case of **Elizabeth I**(shown here) and the **nation-state** of England.  England had previously played a role in the **Protestant Reformation** when **Henry VIII** broke away from the **Roman Catholic Church** to form his own Church of England.  The Church, during the days of feudalism, was the one unifying factor for European people.  When the power of the Church receded during the **Renaissance**, people became aware of similarities and interests beyond religion.  Elizabeth I was seen as a symbol of English pride.  England became a nation-state governing itself, not a disjointed group of feudal states paying homage to the Catholic Church centered in far-away Italy.   Nation-states with strong individual rulers became predominant in Europe.  Rulers such as **Louis XIV** in France governed large nations with **absolute power**.  European people, in general, no longer saw themselves individually as (for example) Bavarian, Bohemian, or Prussian, they saw themselves as German.

The Big Picture
The Renaissance in Europe fostered new political ideas and a reshaping of nation-states emerging out of the feudal period of the **Middle Ages**.  Political revolutions occurred, causing tremendous impact on subsequent revolutions, and result in ousting leaders and new governments.  Many European nations experienced heightened periods of nationalism in the 19th century and were either **unified** by it or **divided** into ethnic groups.  The European nations that experienced unification because of nationalism eventually enter into a period of **imperialism** where they politically, socially, and economically take over weaker nations in **Asia**, **Africa**, the **Middle East**, and **Latin America**.  Still later in the 20th century, these imperialized countries experienced nationalistic movements aimed at removing European imperial influences in order to establish their own autonomous states.  Therefore, the tide of nationalism has been washing through history for roughly 500 years, making direct correlations between yesterday and today.

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| **Asian Nationalism** |

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| http://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/uk_3a.gifImperialism Sparks Nationalism in AsiaNationalistic movements in Asia are similar to those in Europe.  The goals of **autonomy** and self-rule are the same.  Circumstances that led to the unification or the division of a place are alike.  The catalysts for **nationalism** are, however, slightly different.  Both are based on the corruption or ineffectiveness of a government on its subjects, but the sources are different.  European abuse of power came from within (French kings over French people or disunity in Germany are examples).  Asian nationalistic movements for independence are a direct reaction to **imperialism**.  European nations were in a period of imperialization, or the taking over of another country for political, social, and/or economic gain.  In this case, the Asian countries of **China**, **Vietnam**, and **India** had experienced long periods of imperialism at the hands of European authorities.  As imperialism progressed, nationalistic movements rose up in an attempt to throw out foreign influence and gain independence.  http://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/china_a.gifNationalism in ChinaChina was considered to be within the sphere of British influence, one of the forms imperialism can takehttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/jiang.jpg.  **Britain** never completely or directly controlled the Chinese government, led by royalty, but did influence political and economic affairs heavily.  By the end of the 19th century, British control was beginning a slow withdrawal from China.  It is at this point that nationalistic movements began succeeding where previous ones had failed.  In early 1900's, there was a successful overthrow of the Emperor called the **Chinese Revolution**.  This revolution was led by **Sun Yixian** who went on to establish the **Kuomintang** and be elected as a provisional president of a **democratic** government.  His principles were restoring Chinese pride, removing foreign influence, individual rights, land reform, and modernization.  His successor was **Jiang Jieshi****,** who would lead the Kuomintang using the same principles.  http://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/mao1.jpgAnother Chinese Nationalist leader, named **Mao Zedong**, was in direct opposition to the democratic principles of Jieshi and the Kuomintang.  Mao was a **Marxist** who followed the principles of **communism**, as opposed to **capitalism**.  Mao won the favor of the Chinese people during the **Communist Revolution** against Jieshi.  Mao's **Long March** was an event in which 100,000 communists walked nearly 6,000 miles while under constant fire from the Kuomintang.  It became Mao's symbol of perseverance and helped him rise to power after the Japanese invasion of China during the **Second World War** was finally halted.  After defeating Jieshi, Mao assumed power in 1949 as the communist leader of the People's **Republic of China**.  http://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/viet_nam_a.gifNationalism in VietnamEuropean imperialism was also established on the Southeast Asian peninsula ofhttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/hochiminh.jpg Indo-China.  The countries of Laos, Cambodia, and **Vietnam** had been previously imperialized by **France**.  One Vietnamese leader was prominent in the call for self-rule.  As shown here, **Ho Chi Minh** went to the **Treaty of Versailles** in 1919 after **WWI** to plead his case and ask that Vietnam be rid of any foreign influence.  He was largely ignored by the leaders of Europe and it was not until after WWII that Vietnam openly began fighting against the French.  By 1954, Ho Chi Minh had succeeded in establishing **North Vietnam**, with the military aid of the **communist** world.  To order to stop the spread of communism, the United States took control of **South Vietnam** from France and established a **democratic** government under the leadership of Ngo Dinh Diem.  The **Vietnam conflict** between North and South Vietnam would not end until the mid-1970's.http://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/india_a.gifNationalism in India **Great Britain** had colonized the country of India during the 1700's. Indian **nationalistic** movements, such as ones led by the **Indian National Congress**, had made attempts at self-rule but had never been completely successful.  The great proponent of a free India, **Mohandas K. Gandhi**, was instrumental in the **Indian Nationalist Movement**.  Known as the Mahatma, or the Great Soul, Gandhi forced change and an end to British **imperialism** through a strict policy of non-violence, or passive resistance.  Examples of his **civil disobedience**included boycotts such as the **Salt March**, and hunger strikes.  He also forced change at home by attempting to do away with the Hindu **caste system**.  The rigid caste system separated religious and politicalhttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/smile.gif classes from lower classes of laborers and outcasts with no hope at social mobility.Violent episodes, such as the **Amritsar Massacre**, plagued India's movement to be come free.  Great Britain, weakened by its efforts in World War II, finally conceded to Indian nationalist demands in 1948.  Despite the influence of Gandhi, India fell into disorder.  Hindu people wanted an all-Hindu state and Muslims, led by the **Muslim League** wanted a separate state.  Gandhi was assassinated because of this conflict.  Eventually, Pakistan was formed as a separate Muslim state.  Therefore, the strength and will of the common people both achieved Indian independence and tore India apart.  The story of Mahatma Gandhi and Indian nationalism is one of history's greatest ironies.

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| **Pan-Africanism** |

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| Imperialism Sparks the Pan-African Movementhttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/africa.gifShortly after the end of **World War II**, most European nations were in the process of ending imperial control of Africa.  **Pan-Africanism** became prevalent on the continent of Africa.  Pan-Africanism is a **nationalistic** movement that calls for the unity of all African nations.  While is does have tremendous influence, such as the **African National Council**, or ANC, it has never succeeded in uniting all of Africa.  Disunity and many of the problems facing Africa since the end of WWII into present-day can be blamed on European **imperialism**.  Political corruption is rampant because European imperialists left without establishing stable governments.**Ethnic tension** exists because European borders were made without any thought given to the tribal system.  **Tribalism** is one of the biggest hindrances to Africa because **traditional** enemies were contained within one European-made border.  A good example of ethnic tension is the conflict between the **Hutus and Tutsis**in which 1,000's on both sides were massacred and many more fled to Zaire to seek refuge.  Both the nations of Rwanda and Burundi had significant populations of Hutus and Tutsis, both traditional tribes.  Despite the overwhelming problems, there have been some major accomplishments where nationalism has resulted in positive change. http://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/ghana_a.gifGhana and Kwame Nkrumahhttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/Nkrumah.jpgDuring the days of imperialism, the nation now known as Ghana was called the **Gold Coast**, an English colony.  The nationalist leader **Kwame Nkrumah** called on the hearts of the African people by renaming the obviously imperial European "Gold Coast" to something that hearkened back to the golden age of western Africa, the Empire of Ghana.  Nkrumah was a believer in the principles of **Mohandas K. Gandhi**.  He established autonomy for Ghana through **civil disobedience** and passive resistance.  Through the pride and courage of Nkrumah and the Ghanaian people, Great Britain left .  To quote the words of Nkrumah, **"No people without a government of their own can expect to be treated on the same level as people of independent sovereign states.  It is far better to be free to govern or misgovern yourself than to be governed by anybody else . . . "**http://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/kenya_a.gifKenya and Jomo KenyattaThe situation in the British colony of Kenya was much the same as that in Ghana.  The exploitationhttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/kenyatta2.jpg of Kenyan resources and oppression of its people were the typical trademarks of British imperialism.  The road to autonomy, however, was dramatically different.  Kenya's nationalist leader, **Jomo Kenyatta**, began his movement using passive resistance.  However, Great Britain refused to end its imperialization of Kenya and had imprisoned Kenyatta for guerilla warfare he may or may not have called for.  Regardless, the **Mau Mau**, Kenyan guerilla fighters, resisted British troops until Great Britain released Kenyatta and left in 1963 with Kenyatta as the prime minister of a free Kenya.  http://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/south_africa_a.gifSouth Africa and Nelson MandelaThe most famous of all African nationalist leaders was **Nelson Mandela**.  The situation in South Africa washttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/mandela.jpg different. It had experienced imperialism, but the country had gained autonomy at the turn of the century.  White setters called **Afrikaners** had control of the South African government and had imposed a social structure known as apartheid.  **Apartheid** consisted of two social classes, upper white and lower black.  The races were kept separate and unequal, with the black population suffering terrible abuses.  Examples of this abuse include pass cards for blacks only, voting rights for whites only, and segregated reservations called **Home Lands**.  Mandela, due to speaking out against apartheid, was imprisoned for 27 years and not released until the early 1990's.  South African president **F.W. De Klerk** freed Mandela and ended the racist institution.  In 1994, South Africa had its first free election and Mandela was elected president.  Mandela and De Klerk earned the Nobel Peace Prize together for their efforts.

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| **Middle East** |

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Pan-Arabism and Zionism in the Middle Easthttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/palestinian.gifFollowing the withdrawal of European **imperialism** from the **Middle East**, a variety of **nationalistic** groups sprung up demanding **sovereignty** for their respective nations.  **Arab nationalism** was present in Algeria, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.  The Arab world is defined as nations practicing the religion of **Islam**.  A call for **Pan-Arabism** was made by Egyptian leader **Gamal Abdel Nasser**, who had the desire to unite all the nations of the Arab world.  The Pan-Arabic movement flourished for a short period when the Arab world was contesting the presence of the Jewish state of Israel, but has since decayed as Islamic countries squabbled amongst themselves over territory and oil.  **Zionism****,** founded by **Theodor Herzl****,** is defined as the nationalistic movement of Jewish people and their desire to establish their own sovereign nation in the Holy Land.  After **World War II**, the nation of **Israel,** led by Prime Minister **David Ben-Gurion****,** was formed making Zionism a successful nationalistic movement.  Since then, nationalism has played a role in the turbulent Middle East.  Arab nationalistic movements will be in direct conflict with each other and with Israel up to the present-day.  http://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/middle_east_ref2000.jpgThe Arab-Israeli Warshttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/Jerusalem-4670681.jpgA series of wars were fought between the Jewish sate of Israel and the various surrounding Islamic states.  Arab nationalism had both a unifying and dividing influence on the Arab-Israeli Wars.  The Jewish state of Israel was viewed by the Arab world as a foreign influence that threatened a **traditional** Islamic way of life.  Arab nationalism  unified to a degree because the surrounding Islamic nations saw Israel as a common enemy.  Despite being unified by religion, each Arab nation had its own agenda concerning territory and power.  Therefore, the Arab nations would never be able to consolidate forces well enough to defeat the Israeli Army.  Areas of contention included the **Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights**. The first Arab-Israeli conflict pitted two nationalistic movements against each other.  The **War for Independence** (1948-49) was the failure of the Arab world to stop Israel from being formed as a Jewish sovereign state.  This war resulted in Jerusalemhttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/1947war.giffalling under the control of the Israelis and the end to a proposed plan for an independent Palestinian state to be formed.  The **Suez War** of 1956 resulted in Nasser's Egypt losing control of the Sinai peninsula, threatening the stability of the vastly important Suez Canal.  The **Six-Day War** of 1967 saw many of the surrounding Arab nations attack Israel and then proceed to lose territory (the contested areas listed above) to Israel in less than a week.  The **Yom Kippur War** of 1973 was an Egyptian attack across the Sinai and became a **Cold War** event as the Americans and **Soviets** became involved.  Nasser's successor, **Anwar al-Sadat**, (pictured here) was the first Arab leader to recognize Israel as a nation.  For this alone, he was assassinated, effectively ending any attempts at lasting peace.  The conflict continues today.The Palestinian Situationhttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/arafat.jpgThroughout this entire period of conflict between the Arab world and the Israelis has been the issue over **Palestinians**.  A large population of Arab people, the Palestinians were promised a sovereign nation at the end of **WWII**.  The plan disintegrated with the arrival of the Israelis and the beginning of the conflict.  Since then Palestinians have taken up residence in most countries in the **Middle East** and many have **immigrated** to the United States.  Even the nation of Israel has a significant population of Palestinians, which has served to exacerbate an already volatile situation.   Beginning in the 1960's, the **Palestinian Liberation Organization** (PLO,) led by **Yasir Arafat**, has led Palestinians against Israel in a nationalistic movement for a sovereign Palestine.  **Terrorism** has been employed against innocents on one side and drastic force have been resorted to on the other.  Peace accords have been made but then eventually fail. The conflict still continues. Khomeini and the Iranian Revolutionhttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/khomein1.jpgDuring the 1960's and into the 70's, the Shah of Iran, **Muhammad Reza Pahlavi**, instituted **westernization** programs designed to modernize the nation of Iran.  **Islamic Fundamentalists**, strict followers of Islam, believed that westernization and **modernization** were in direct conflict with the **traditional** Islamic way of life.  Pressure from the Iranian Revolutionary Council, led by religious leader the **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini**, shown here, Pahlavi left Iran leaving Khomeini in control.  Khomeini is considered a nationalist leader because he forced change in order to do what he felt was best for the Iranian people.  Khomeini was an enemy of any foreign influence coming from the West, including the United States.  Fifty-two American **hostages** were held against their will from 1979 to 1981.  Islamic Fundamentalists are so religiously strict they have come in direct conflict with other Islamic nations, namely Iraq, over issues concerning oil and religious doctrine.Kemal Ataturk and the Westernization of Turkeyhttp://www.regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/nationalism/images/ata-iz.jpgFollowing **World War I**, the Allies at the ***Treaty of Versailles*** were concerned with punishing the Central Powers with war **reparations** and territory losses.  A Turkish general named **Mustafa Kemal Ataturk** successfully resisted **Allied** attempts at taking territory held by the now defunct **Ottoman Empire**.  By 1920, the modern nation of Turkey was given sovereignty.  Ataturk, with great foresight, instituted reform policies that **westernized** **and modernized** the new nation of **Turkey**.  Some traditional practices were discarded, factories and infrastructure were built, education and government were revamped, and women's rights were established.    |