

Read and Understand

1. How did Japan become a major economic power?
2. How was communism established in China?
3. How did China change under Communist rule?
4. How did India and Pakistan develop as nations?
5. What conflicts occurred in the Pacific Rim?

VOCABULARY pollution, cease-fire agreement, commune, partition, nonalignment, Third World

Asia was the scene of enormous changes in the decades after World War II. Japan staged a remarkable economic recovery to become the world's third leading industrial nation. Mao Tse-tung used totalitarian methods to make China an industrial nation. South and Southeast Asia saw the founding of new nations as former possessions gained independence. While peaceful in some countries, this transition was marked by conflict in others.

Japan became an industrial giant.

For the first time in their proud history, the Japanese after World War II found their country controlled by foreigners. American forces occupied Japan for seven years after the war, helping to establish democratic forms of government and rebuild the devastated economy. Japan's armed forces were disbanded. In 1947, the nation adopted a new constitution by which the emperor became a constitutional monarch. Real power belonged to the Diet, or parliament, led by a prime minister chosen by the majority party in the Diet. All citizens over age twenty could vote. After the signing of a final peace treaty in 1951, the last occupation troops were withdrawn.

Eager to move forward, the Japanese worked hard to rebuild their country and adapt to new ideas. Because their resource-poor island nation depended heavily on imports, political leaders sought ways to increase foreign trade (map, page 768). The result was a tremendous economic boom that lasted more than three decades. By 1990, only the United States and the Soviet Union had a higher gross national product.

There were four major reasons for Japan's great economic achievements. First, the Japanese were quick to adopt and develop high technology. Second, most Japanese people were dedicated to their companies and worked very productively. Third, high rates of saving provided large amounts of money to invest in business. Fourth, the government took an

active role in economic development, limiting competition at home to ensure success abroad.

Rapid economic development brought problems. Japan is one of the most urbanized countries in the world, with Tokyo and many other cities having huge metropolitan areas (city tour, pages 763–764). Millions of people live and work in overcrowded conditions, and **pollution** threatens the environment.

China became a Communist country.

Except for the Soviet Union, no country suffered greater devastation during World War II than China. Nonetheless, the Chinese remained bitterly divided between the Nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-shek and the Communists under Mao Tse-tung.

During the war, Mao's forces in northwestern China had wide popular support and were effective in fighting the Japanese. Although Chiang's forces in the southwest received extensive Allied aid, corruption and poor leadership limited effectiveness.

After the defeat of Japan, full-scale civil war broke out in China. As the economy collapsed and cities fell to Mao's forces, thousands of Nationalist soldiers deserted to the Communists. In 1949, Chiang fled to Taiwan. Mao proclaimed victory, creating the People's Republic of China (map, page 768).

The outbreak of civil war in nearby Korea brought the Cold War to the Far East (map, page 766). After World War II, Korea had been divided, with a Soviet-controlled government in North Korea and an American-backed government in South Korea. In June 1950, a North Korean army invaded South Korea, which at once appealed to the United Nations for help. Under UN supervision, an international force—including many American units and led by General Douglas MacArthur—was rushed to the aid of South Korea. In 1953, a **cease-fire agreement** was signed, ending the war and restoring the border between North and South Korea.

China changed under Communist rule.

Like Stalin in the Soviet Union, Mao set out to unify China, establish a communist system, and build a modern industrial nation. The most urgent task was to rebuild China's economy, ruined by a half century of revolution and civil war. Because 80 percent of the people lived on the land, Mao began

with agricultural reform. Instead of giving the land to the peasants, Communist officials organized **communes**, or collective farms, where several hundred families worked together. Leaders also encouraged industrial development.

In 1953, Mao launched an ambitious five-year plan for industrial development. Its striking success encouraged Mao to undertake in 1958 an even more ambitious plan, the Great Leap Forward. The plan proved a disaster. Attempts to create even larger collective farms caused hardship and confusion. Millions of people starved in famines.

Leaders during the early 1960's followed more moderate policies. Peasants were allowed more control over their crops, and factory workers could earn bonuses and promotions based on performance. Mao, however, questioned the use of capitalist methods and sought a return to communist ideas. In 1966, he urged Chinese youth to "learn revolution by making revolution." The result was an upheaval called the Cultural Revolution, which swept across China for 18 months. Roving bands of young people called Red Guards lashed out at symbols of authority and tradition. Most political and business leaders were jailed or executed.

Finally even Mao was forced to recognize that his attempt to purify the country had gone too far. He withdrew from day-to-day affairs, and a new leader, Zhou Enlai, worked to restore order. Zhou also sought to end China's isolation. China joined the United Nations in 1972 and began to improve relations with the United States.

After the death of Mao and Zhou in 1976, Deng Xiaoping became China's new leader. Although devoted to communist principles, Deng launched bold new economic policies designed to modernize China. He allowed peasants to farm their own lands and encouraged private enterprise. He also eased state control of major industries and invited foreign investors to set up factories and businesses in China. Deng's economic policies brought young Chinese into contact with Western political ideas.

During the late 1980's, the political situation grew tense. More and more people began to question the Communist party's absolute control. In the spring of 1989, Chinese students began demanding political reform. More than a million students and workers gathered in Beijing to demand democracy, freedom of the press, and an end to dictatorship.

At first, the government seemed willing to make concessions. But in June 1989, the government suddenly responded by sending tanks into Tiananmen Square in the center of Beijing, where the student protesters had gathered. Troops killed more than 2,000 demonstrators and arrested thousands more. Through violence and terror, Deng Xiaoping and other Communist officials kept control of China.

The Tiananmen Square massacre was a serious setback. Deng's program of economic reform depended heavily on the goodwill of other countries. Around the world, nation after nation—communist, as well as democratic—condemned the Chinese leadership for its brutal action. The collapse of the pro-democracy movement left the future uncertain.

India and Pakistan became independent.

Great Britain recognized after World War II that it would have to give up control of India. Overshadowing the question of independence was the deep religious and cultural gulf between Hindus and Muslims. A majority of the population was Hindu, but the Muslim minority refused to live in a Hindu-dominated state.

As a solution, Britain turned to **partition**—the division of the huge subcontinent into two nations. In 1947, the new Muslim nation of Pakistan was created in the two areas where Muslims were a majority. Those areas—West Pakistan and East Pakistan—were a thousand miles apart. The remainder of the subcontinent became the independent nation of India (map, page 773). Despite partition, large-scale fighting broke out after independence as millions of Hindus and Muslims fled from areas under each other's control. Mohandas Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu extremist who thought Gandhi was too tolerant of other religious groups.

The new government of India was dominated by one family, the Nehrus. Jawaharlal Nehru, one of Gandhi's most devoted followers but a more pragmatic politician, was prime minister until 1964. He was succeeded by his daughter, Indira Gandhi (no relation to Mohandas), who ruled the country for two decades. In 1984, however, Indira Gandhi was assassinated by Sikh religious extremists. Indira Gandhi's son, Rajiv, succeeded her and ruled until 1989. He was assassinated before the election of 1991.

As a newly independent nation, India faced major political and economic questions. India itself was a democracy—the largest democracy in the world. In foreign policy, however, should it become allied with the democratic Western nations or with its huge Communist neighbors to the north? Nehru developed a new policy called **nonalignment**, or remaining neutral between opposing systems. He also launched programs to develop resources, improve farming, and industrialize. These policies became a model for other newly independent nations, which together came to be known as the **Third World**.

In spite of economic expansion, India still faced the problem of a rapid increase in population. That growth was so fast that it exceeded the rate of economic development, leaving the masses of the people poorer than before and slowing economic development.

Meanwhile Muslim-dominated Pakistan wrestled with its own problems. Tension frequently flared between East and West Pakistan, whose peoples had only their religion in common. Civil war broke out in 1971, with India supporting East Pakistan. Following its victory, East Pakistan became the new nation of Bangladesh.

The Pacific Rim faced change and conflict.

After World War II, the people of Southeast Asia—which had been overrun by Japan—were eager for independence. After a four-year revolution, the former Dutch East Indies became the new nation of Indonesia. Britain gave independence to Burma and Malaysia, and in 1946, the United States granted independence to the Philippines. Although the Philippines was a democracy, its society was sharply divided between rich and poor. In 1985, the Philippine people rejected the corrupt President Marcos and elected Corazón Aquino.

Of the former European powers, France made the strongest effort to keep its colonies. Although French officials and soldiers returned to Indochina after the war, nationalist leaders were determined to win independence. Under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh, a Communist who had led the resistance against Japan, Vietnamese nationalists and Communists fought a successful guerrilla war against the French. In 1954, the French army suffered a major defeat at Dien Bien Phu. France agreed to withdraw on terms to be decided by an international conference.

At this point, the United States became involved in Vietnam. The Cold War made American leaders fearful of Ho Chi Minh's Communist connections. The United States thus insisted that Vietnam be divided, with Ho governing North Vietnam and an American-supported government in South Vietnam. (Cambodia and Laos became independent nations.)

Independence did not bring peace to Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh argued that South Vietnam was an artificial creation, and his soldiers continued to fight a guerrilla war against the South Vietnam government. That government—which was weak, corrupt, and lacking in popular support—depended more and more on American financial aid.

In 1963, the first American military advisers arrived in South Vietnam. Because they proved unable to control the Communist guerrillas—the Viet Cong—increasing numbers of American soldiers were sent to Vietnam between 1963 and 1968. Even this powerful and well-equipped army of half a million men was no match for the Viet Cong.

Meanwhile, many Americans began to have serious doubts about their country's role in the Vietnam War. Protests and demonstrations spread across the United States during the late 1960's, especially as casualty figures began to rise. Public pressure finally

forced the American government to begin withdrawing troops. The last American soldiers were removed in 1972, leaving behind a well-supplied and well-trained South Vietnamese army. The South Vietnam government, however, was unpopular and corrupt. A major North Vietnamese offensive in 1975 ended the conflict and ended with Vietnam unified under Communist rule. In Cambodia, a brutal civil war during the 1970's and 1980's killed an estimated 2 million people. The political situation there still remains uncertain.

The East and Southeast Asian nations of the Pacific Rim had very different patterns of development after World War II. Like Japan, a number of these countries—such as South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore—became thriving centers of international commerce.

Chapter Review

Define pollution, cease-fire agreement, commune, partition, nonalignment, Third World

Identify Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Tiananmen Square massacre, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Bangladesh, Corazón Aquino, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Cong

Answer

1. What factors made Japan an economic power?
2. How did China become communist?
3. (a) What was the purpose of China's Cultural Revolution? (b) What factors contributed to the spread of the pro-democracy movement?
4. Why might new nations like India and Pakistan have chosen to be nonaligned?

Critical Thinking

5. (a) What were the causes of the conflict in Vietnam? (b) What were its outcomes?

Connecting Past and Present

The leaders of the world's two great Communist nations—the Soviet Union and China—saw the very foundations of their power shaken during the late 1980's. The two reacted differently, however, to the ever-increasing pressure for change.

The Communist party in both countries had long held a monopoly on political power. In the Soviet Union, leaders saw that the time had come to end this system of one-party rule. In China, aging leaders proved more inflexible, choosing to massacre their own citizens rather than surrender control. Time and the Mandate of Heaven will tell how long the democratic tide can be stemmed in China.

