

Decolonisation and Independence

A Third World Was Born

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Part 1

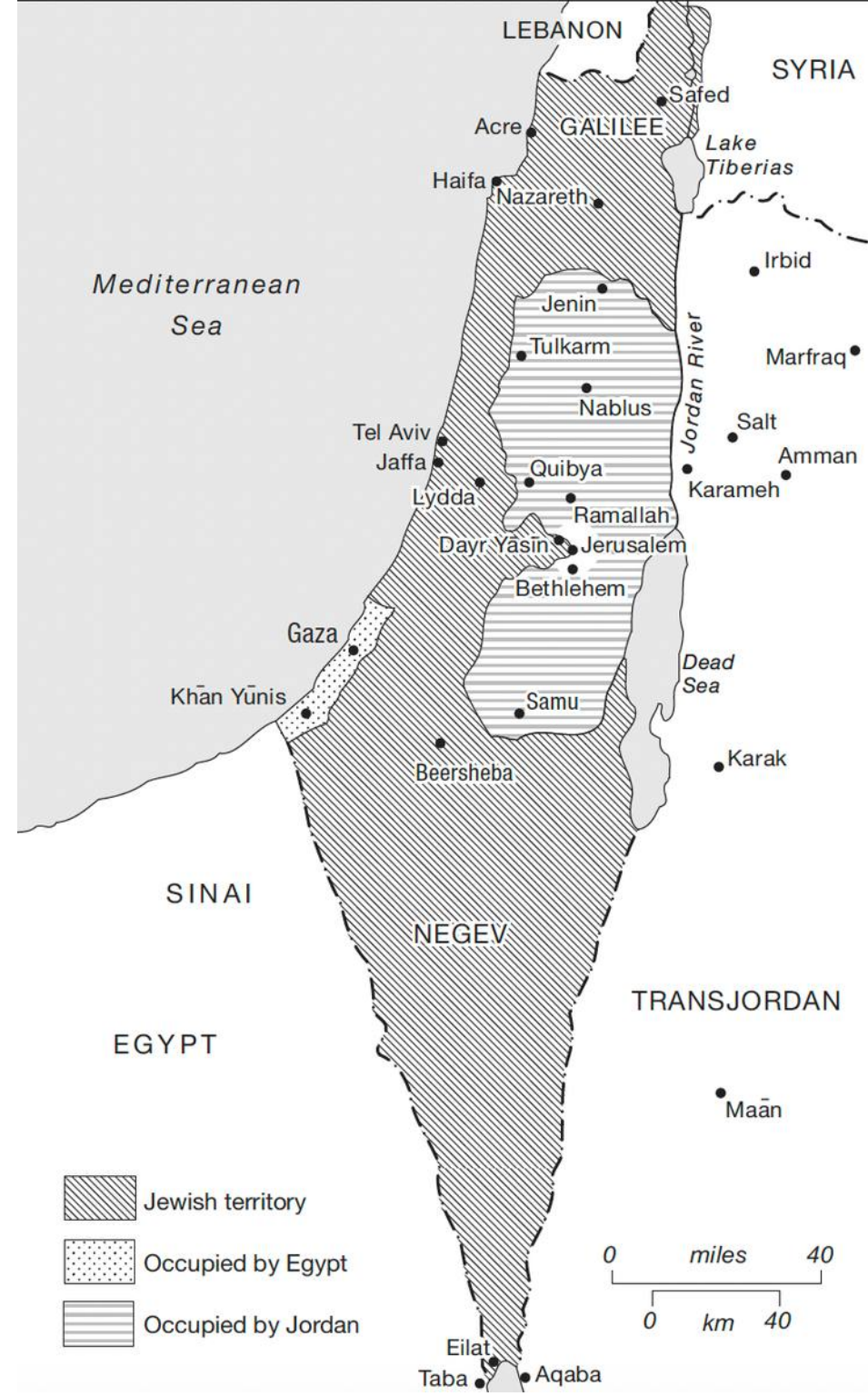
Independence and Statehood in Asia and Africa

- The process whereby an imperial power **gives up its formal authority** over its colonies.
- The idea of **self-determination** with Wilson's Fourteen Points, the League of Nations and later the UN
- The emergence of **national liberation movements** and new political ideologies. One example

Competition between three movements in Palestine: Panarabism, Palestinian nationalism, Zionism project

- The **1948 Arab–Israeli War** - by Israel the War of Independence and by Palestinians as *Al-naqba*, has become the subject of a heated historiographical debate.





The Collapse of European Empires

and a number of new independent states emerged

Asia

1945-2002

Accommodations to the forces of
nationalism (failed)

Communist-led resistance movements
(i.e. Viet Minh)

Africa

1951-1990

Retreats and compromises

Egypt's exception

The Gold Coast and Kwame Nkrumah



Pan-ideologies in the Third World

→ Pan-Africanism and Pan-Asianism shared the **same logic** and **aims**:

stressed the cultural and spiritual unity of people of African/Asian descent, had its roots not in Africa/Asia itself but in the African/Asian diaspora

suggested that the continent should cast aside the artificial state boundaries established by the Europeans (what form of state/government?)

organised regional groups to discuss ideas and values (i.e. The 'Monrovia Group' in Africa)

detached from 'white rule' thinking and economic exploitation - partly/by no means achieved



Part 2



A Loose Attempt to Create a Third Pole

No substantial impact that many had anticipated. It got a symbolic result

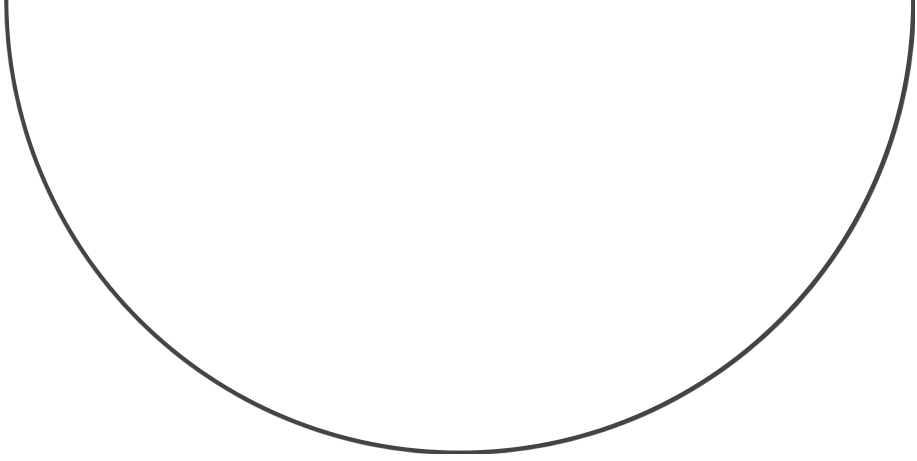
In April 1955, twenty-nine nations of Asia and Africa gathered in the city of Bandung

Indonesia and **Egypt** represented the combined dynamism of the newly decolonised, independent states of Asia and Africa, by monopolising the centre stage in international relations

The idea of 'neutralism': each state participant took great pains to dissociate itself from becoming involved in Great Power conflicts. The first major advocate of the policy was **Jawaharlal Nehru**

The role of **Communist China** (and, more importantly, Zhou Enlai): Relations with India and Indonesia before the conference started





Prompting for discussion

**Did the inability to form a third pole
strengthen the logic for bipolarism?**

Not at all



Part 3

The New International Economic Order



The Right to Development Emerged

A disruptive event occurred in the new international order

The Doudou Thiam's speech (September 23, 1966). A scathing critic of the 'Bretton Woods system'

There were existing imbalance of power between the developing and developed worlds

In 1963, the poor countries held 50 percent of the world's oil. Not as poor as they were said to be

The problem laid in the inequitable international division of labor and deterioration in the terms of trade since 1950



Organising an "Economic" Bandung Conference

"The foundations for a new world society through a revolution of ideas"

Prelude: The establishment of the UN General Assembly nine-country **Commission on Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources** (1959)

The **Group of 77**, June 1964, in Geneva

Two specific aims: 1) provided the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests; 2) South-South co-operation

The **Declaration on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order** (NIEO), 1974 -- plus, the "Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States" (CERDS), 1974.

They both were the culmination of nearly twenty years of conference diplomacy spearheaded by postcolonial states.



Was the NIEO a Failure as a Political Programme?

Interdependence

was incompatible with the wide income gap between rich and poor nations

Equality

disparity between Third World's economies

Equity

no social justice in most Third World's countries

Mutual Interests

the Cold War imposed its own narrative to the developing countries

Part 4

The Cold War dichotomy and Bandung

The conference posed a diplomatic challenge to both Cold War camps

USA

The Conference took place amid a fresh crisis in China and an ongoing quandary in Indochina

Bandung occurred midway through a “sea-change” in US: the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka > separating children in public schools on the basis of race was **unconstitutional**

Bandung opened the way for an ultimately necessary break with European colonialism, but did not follow this logic to its fullest extent

USSR **did not** participate. Bandung participants should have seen in Moscow a welcome friend only

USSR

By 1955, **Nikita Khrushchev** had consolidated his power, forcing Malenkov to resign as Premier due to his close ties with the opposite faction of the CPSU

The Conference was successful in leading efforts in decolonisation in global politics. However, the bipolar logic of Cold War had to **be preserved** at any cost

