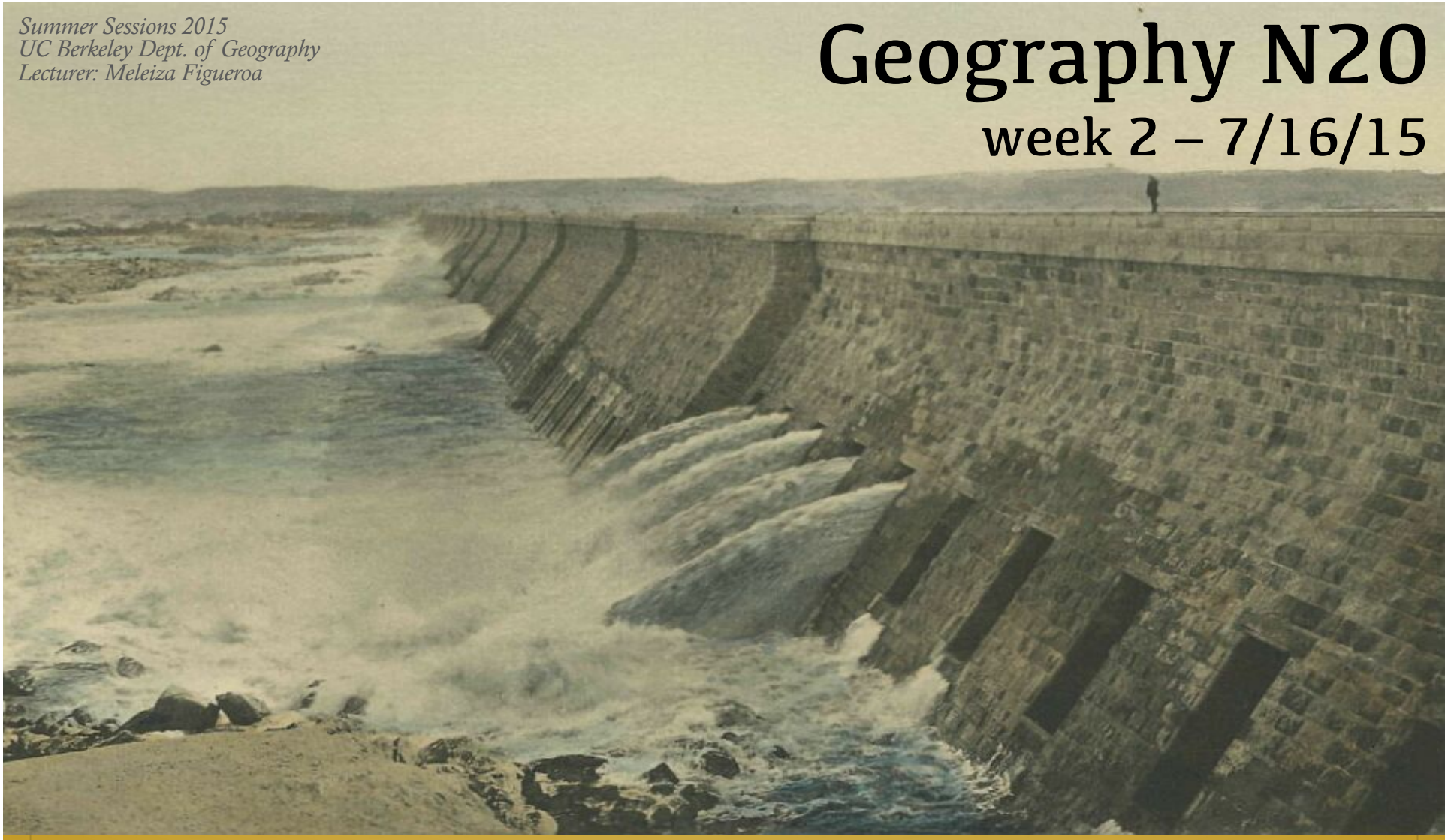
Summer Sessions 2015
UC Berkeley Dept. of Geography
Lecturer: Meleiza Figueroa

Geography N20

week 2 – 7/16/15



Cold War, Decolonization and Development in the Third World

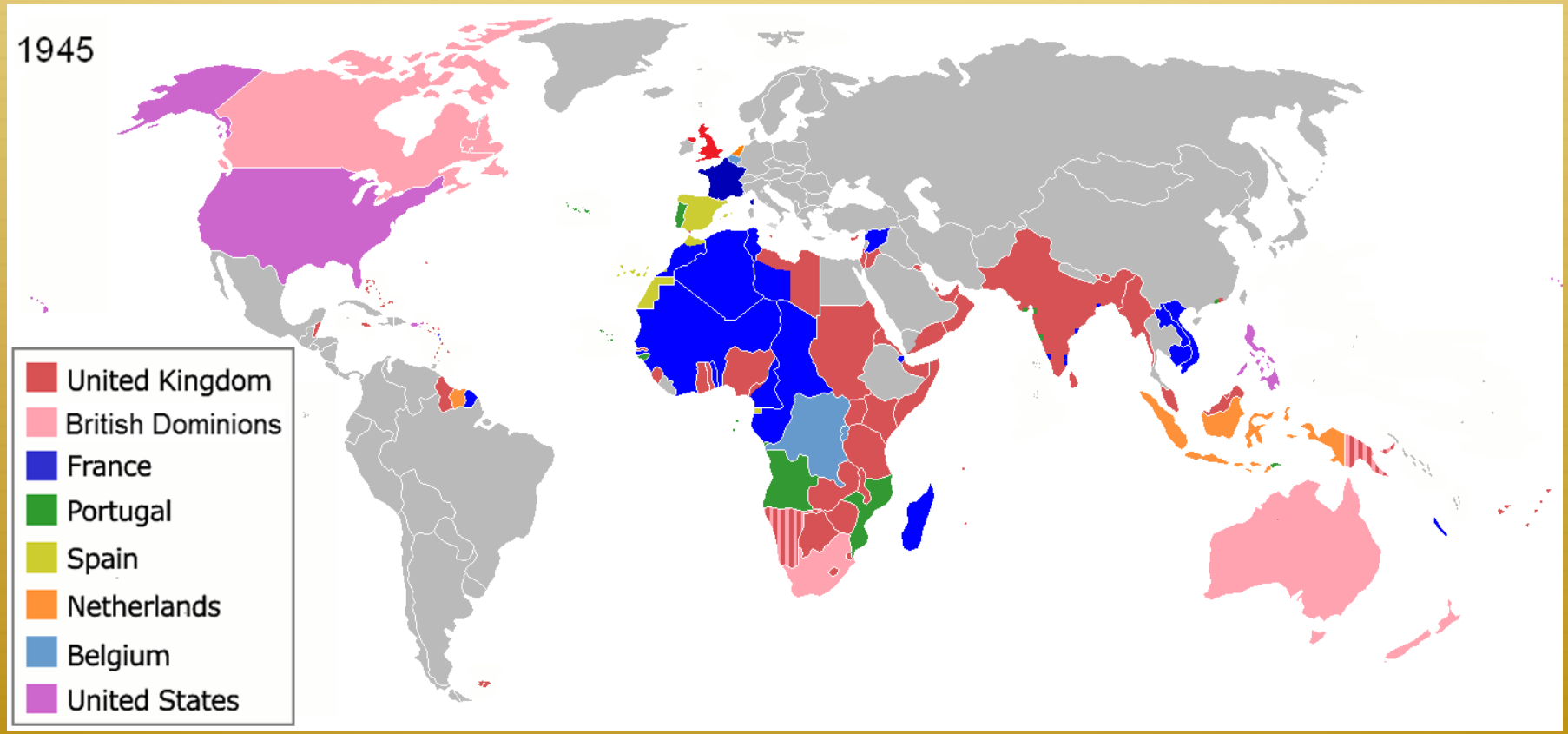
Current events: Greece

- Greek Parliament passes bailout plan
- General Strike / Anarchists w/ Molotov cocktails
- Internal revolt within Syriza
  - 39 MPs dissent
  - Tsipras: https://youtu.be/DX9IWbal5lo?t=18131
- ECB provides emergency liquidity to banks
  - Joins IMF in pushing for debt relief
  - Institutional revolt in EZ against Germany?

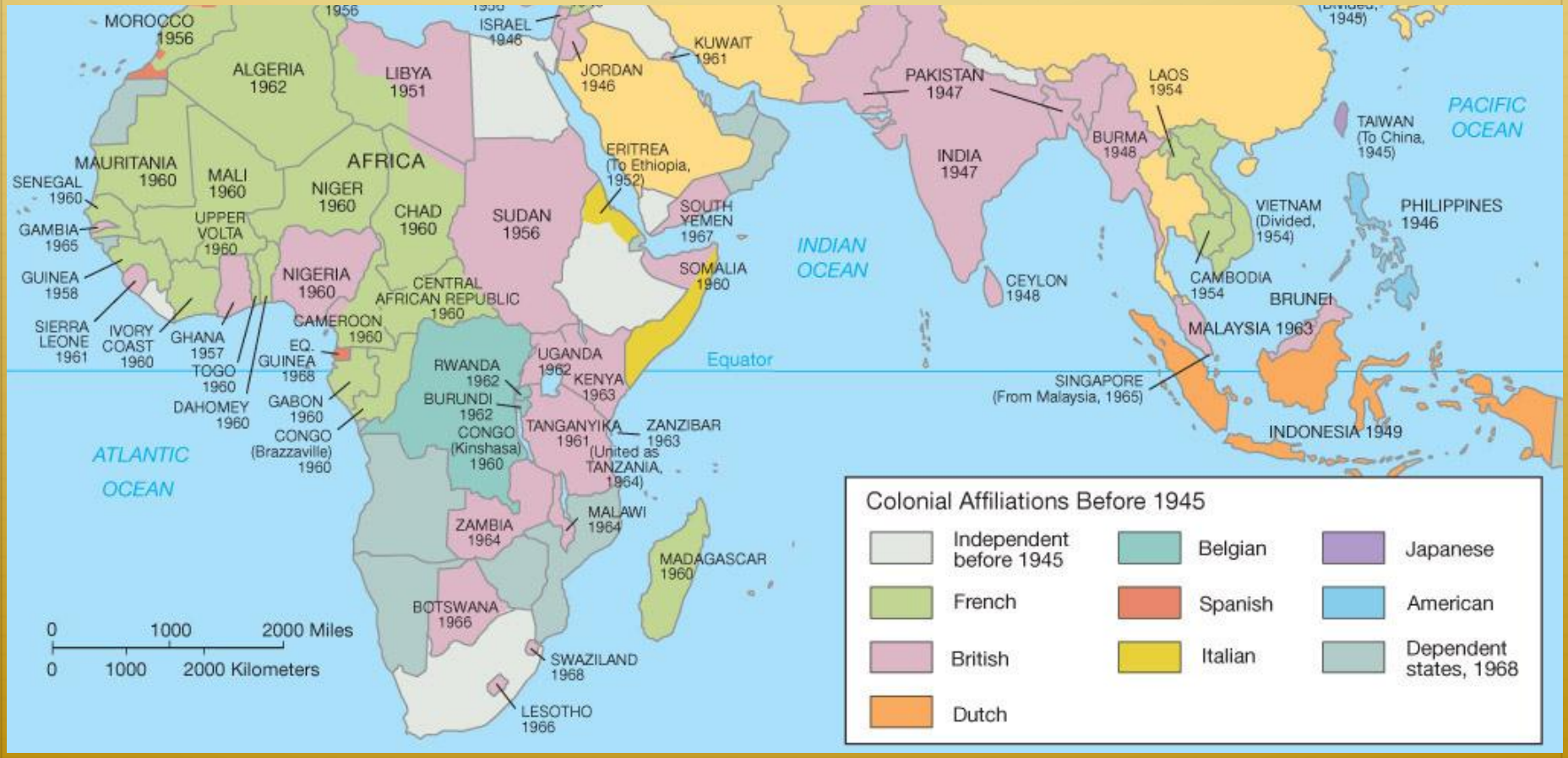
Current event: China market

- Beginning to fall again
- Underlying causes
  - Flagging real economy
  - Too much speculation
- 2 major discourses Chinese government intervention
  - Gov't intervention steadies markets
  - Market crash is evidence of too much government meddling

Colonial world – end of WWII



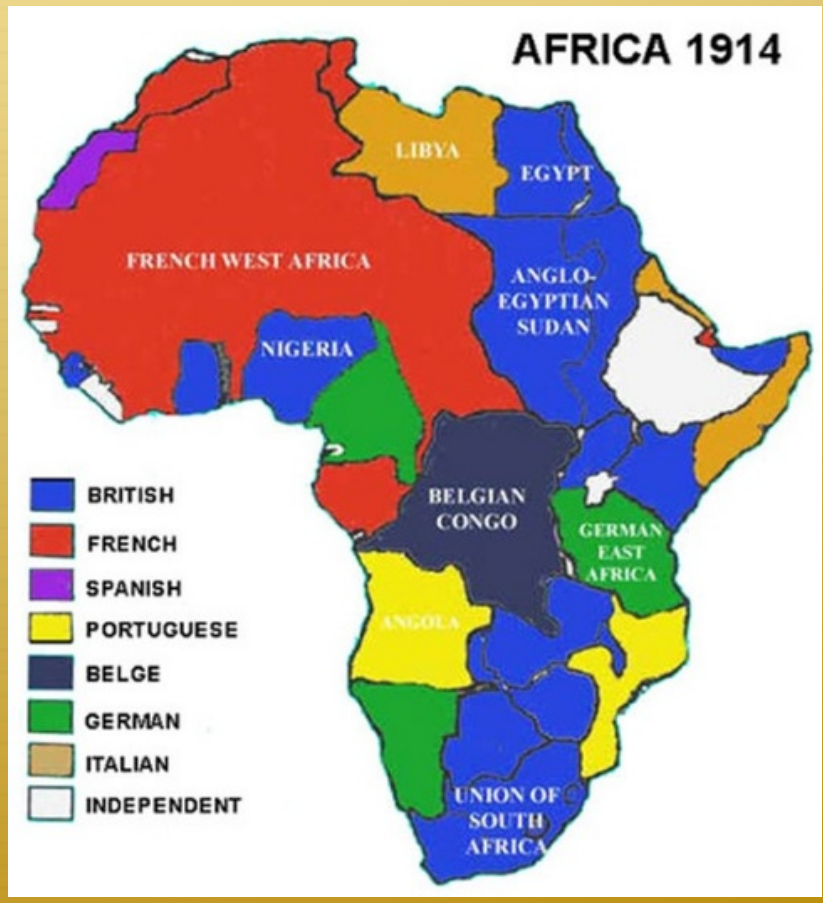
National Independence



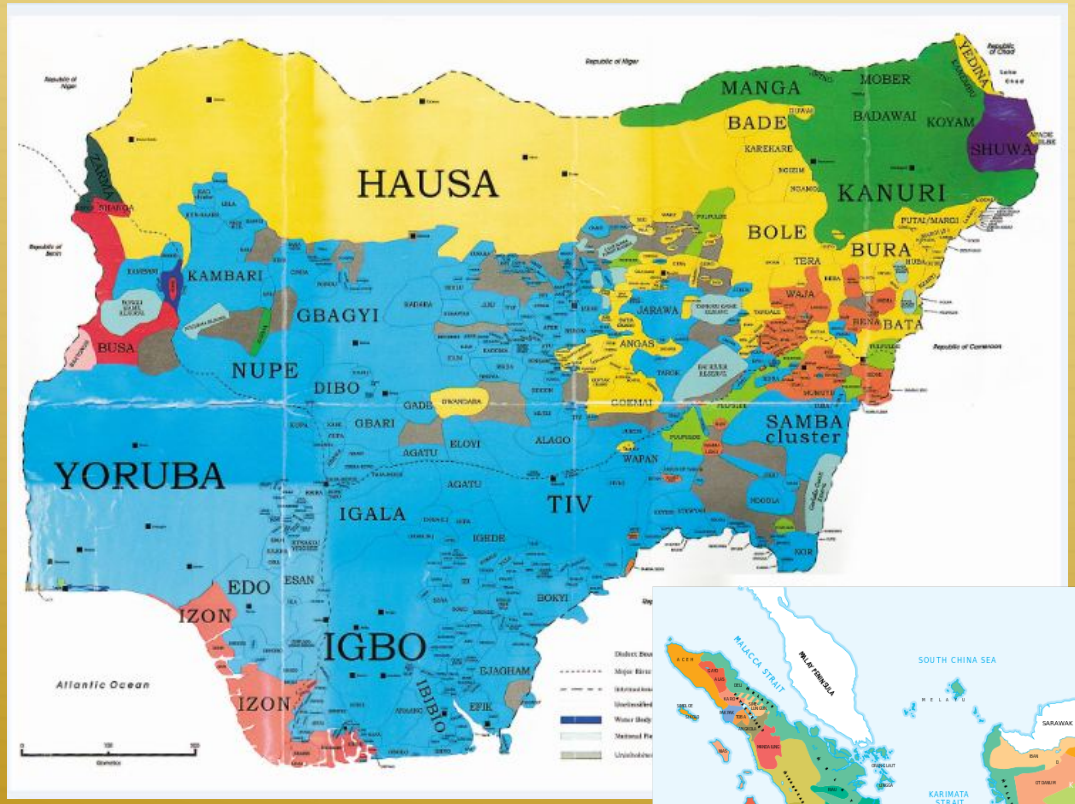
What is a 'Nation'?

- 'Imagined Communities' (Benedict Anderson)
  - More diffuse than local 'communities' that interact face-to-face; did not arise organically, but socially *constructed* for a common purpose
  - Tied to rise of popular/mass media (starting w/ print newspapers, books)
  - Sense of community: cohesive (official) identity, self-image
    - Official language, currency, institutions; religion (in some cases)
    - Symbolism (Flags, national anthems, sports teams, monuments, cultural heritage)
    - National Discourse (nationalist slogans, holidays/celebrations, origin stories, etc)
- The 'Nation-State' as a Social/Economic Unit
  - Originates in context of Europe & the Industrial Revolution
  - Legalistic Category (territorial designation/administrative boundaries)
  - Republican (representative) democracy
    - Rise of capitalism & merchant/industrial classes
    - Aristocracy → Democracy
    - With rise of imperialism: associated with modernity, civilization, 'The West'
      - A kind of 'top-down' nationalism – Fascism as extreme form (Nazis)

Precolonial / Colonial Africa

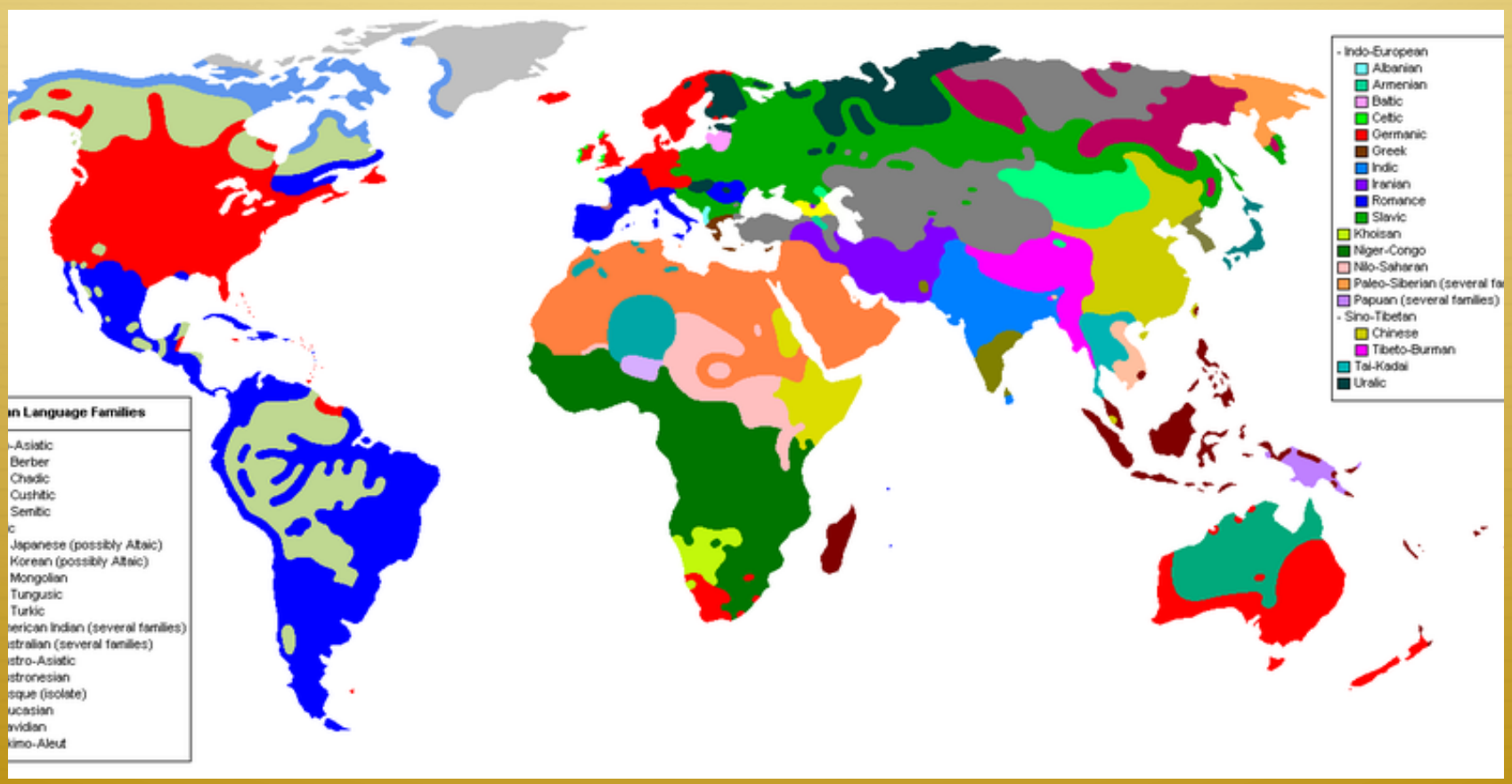


‘Unity in Diversity’: Ethnic groups in Nigeria & Indonesia



Asia: nation-states/language groups

World language families



World map of nation-states

National Liberation:
Frantz Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth*

- Biographical notes
  - Psychiatrist from Martinique; Worked in Algeria
  - Supported Algeria's liberation struggle against French colonizers (FLN)
- National Consciousness in Decolonial Struggle
  - Class formations among the colonized → different orientations, alliances
    - National Bourgeoisie ('eyes to Europe')
    - Peasants (traditional)
    - Intellectuals (Western-educated, Marxist/Socialist)
- Political Violence in Decolonization/Independence
  - Trauma of colonial subjugation; Internalized racism (and sexism)
  - Oppressive regimes – reality & necessity of armed struggle
- Revolutionary vision of the Postcolonial Nation
  - Collective identity forged out of the anti-colonial liberation struggle
  - "The living expression of the nation is the collective consciousness in motion of the entire people. It is the enlightened and coherent praxis of men and women. The collective forging of a destiny implies undertaking responsibility on a truly historical scale." *(*Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth)*

Discourses of Nationalism:
'Top-down' vs. 'bottom-up'

- Imperial era – Colonizers
  - Employed *difference* to justify military force
  - Economic security – 'Protectionism at home, empire abroad' *(*In reader: Hobsbawm)*
    - Industrialization (need for raw materials, markets)
    - Competition (inter-imperial rivalry) and 'national interest'
  - Discourses of race & racism: 'White Man's Burden'
- Postcolonial era – Colonized
  - Sovereignty & political self-determination (Cold War context)
  - Modernization & Industrialization – 'Development project' *(*In reader: McMichael)*
  - Anti-colonialism and the liberation struggle – forming national identity
    - Different ethnic/religious/political groups w/ varying interests, alliances
  - Racial justice & dignity for colonized peoples in international arena
    - UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights *(*In reader: McMichael)*

FILM

“Pandora’s Box, Episode 5: Black Power”
BBC (2007) | *directed by Adam Curtis*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTIhbQB8l7A

Story of Ghana’s First President Kwame Nkrumah
and the Volta River dam project

Post-colonial challenges:
Who 'determines' self-determination?

- Development after Independence: Self-determination ?
  - Modernization & Industrialization / 'Take-off' *(*In reader: McMichael)*
    - Stage theory of development – 'catch up' to West (postwar American society as model)
    - National industrialization/ISI: develop domestic manufacturing, consumer market
  - Developmental State – government-run industry, public works, urbanization
    - Inherited infrastructure of colonial economy (based on ag/extraction of raw materials)
    - Development alliances (US, firms in former imperial countries / USSR)
- Postcolonial Nation-States: challenges to self-determination
  - Nationalism: forging a collective identity, common social values/goals
    - Degree of identification with Western ideals, values, norms
  - Foreign obstacles – Cold War & the 'hidden fist' of bipolar economic order
    - Geopolitics of economic assistance (aid, development loans, infrastructure financing)
      - From US, former colonial powers, or Communist blocs?
      - Consequence of alliances – or attempts at autonomy (i.e. nationalization of resources)
    - Military interventions (proxy wars, coup d'etats, invasion/occupation)

The Cold War:
First/Second/Third Worlds

Group Reflection Questions

- Will be posted on BCourses group discussion
- For weekend:
  - What natural resources does your country have?
  - What foreign companies/nations have interests in your country?
  - What ethnic / religious groups exist in your country?
  - How was your country aligned in the Cold War?
  - Were there conflicts in your country? (1945-1980)
    - Civil Wars
    - Coup d'etats
    - Popular revolts/revolutions