Africa, the Middle East, & Asia in the Era of Independence

THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS COUNTRIES

Color Key by Continent:
- North America
- South America
- Europe
- Asia
- Africa
- Australia

World Population = 6 billion people.
Each grid square = one million people.
Countries with fewer than one million people are not shown.

World population development

Developing countries
Industrialized countries

Withdrawal or expulsion of colonial powers (Causes)

- Existing ethnic conflicts, e.g. Tutsi vs. Hutu
- Religious conflict – India & Pakistan
- Lack of technical expertise
- Environmental degradation
- Social unrest
- Failure of govts led to more social unrest, which prevented govts from solving problems

Overpopulation

- Introduction of American foods, medicine, etc. led to increasing population
- Traditional values sometimes favored lots of children (e.g. One Son Is No Sons)
- Lack of industrial development = few jobs, high unemployment
- Attempts to push family planning, e.g. one child policy, Indira Gandhi

Urbanization

- Population growth led to massive urbanization
- Creation of permanent urban underclass, e.g. Mumbai
- Govts forced to subsidize food
- Disorganized formation of cities, slums
- Cities parasitic
- Environmental degradation, deforestation
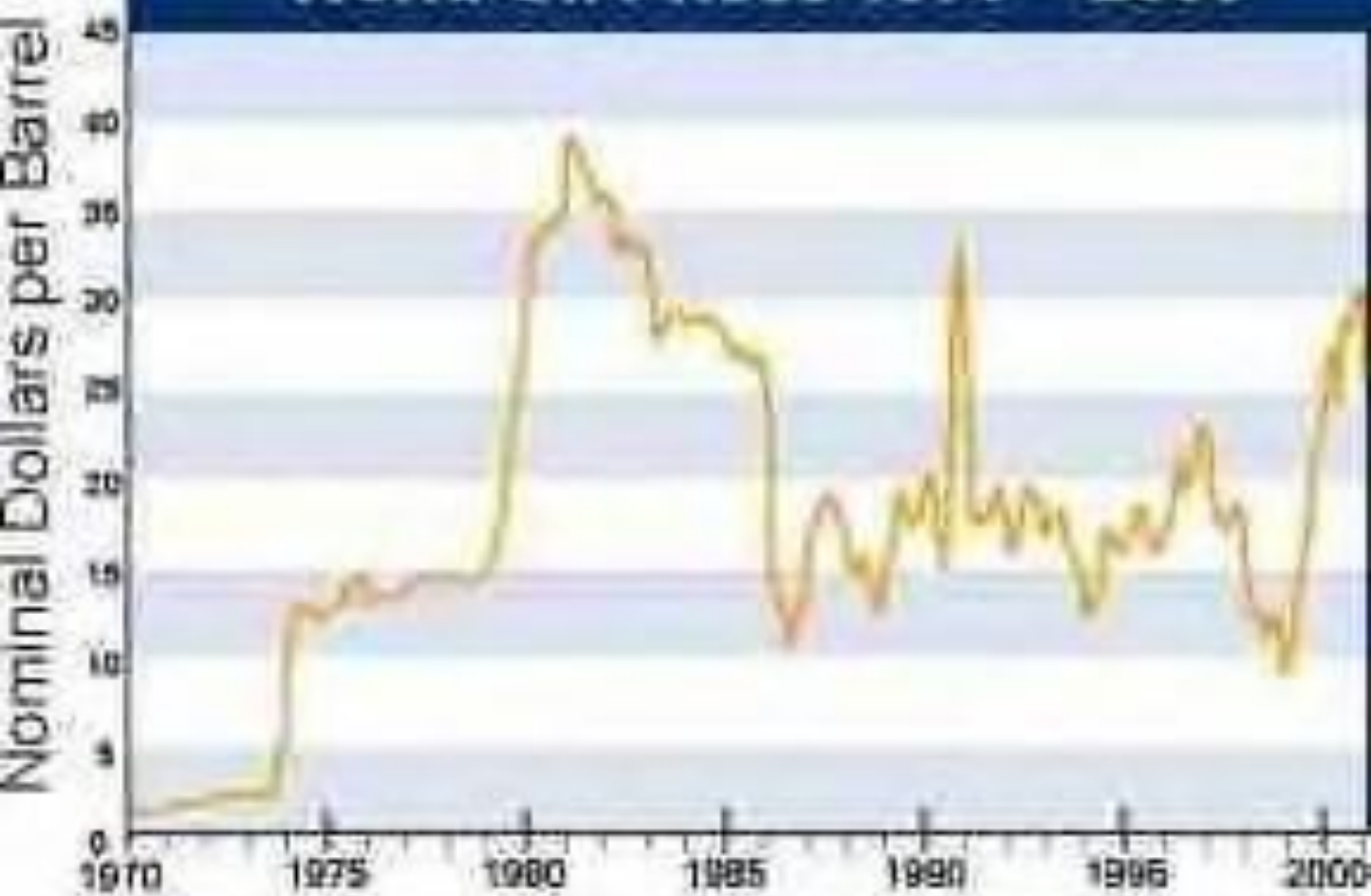- Popularity of country music in Africa

Women's rights

- Promised equality never materialized
- Men dominate politics; powerful women daughters of powerful men
- Inferior education keeps women down
- Expectation of early marriage and many children
- Shortages in basic resources hit women hard
- Religious fundamentalism, e.g. Afghanistan

Neocolonialism & Stunted Development

- Failed industrial development – lack of capital
- Focus on cash crops, exports
- Global fluctuations in basic commodities ruinous, e.g. Oil
- Leaders blame legacy of colonialism
- Corrupt leaders divert resources, e.g. Idi Amin, Sukharto, Hussain
- Aid from international organizations – strings attached

World Oil Prices 1970 – 2000

Source: DOE's Energy Information Administration

Personalist leaders

- Typically authoritarian
- Kwame Nkrumah – Ghana – 1957
- Reforms hampered by in-fighting
- Look to USSR for aid, driving off the West
- Export crop, cocoa, massive dip in global price
- 1960's – crushed opposition, became dictator
- Covered in cloak of "African Socialism" and Ghanaian tradition
- Deposed 1966, died in exile

Dictatorships and Revolutions

- Many military coups – military default govt
- Often formed repressive regimes
- Some attempted reform, e.g. Nasser in Egypt
  - Free Officers allied with Muslim Brotherhood
  - Loss of Arab-Israeli war & Suez Canal Crisis led to overthrow by Free Officers 1952
  - Political parties banned in 1954
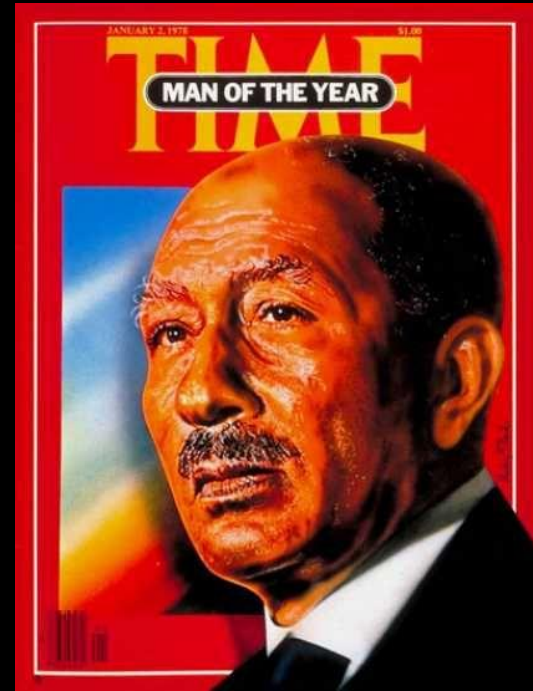
Nasserism to Anwar Sadat

- Broad social and economic reforms
  - Land redistribution; foreign property seized
  - Free education through college
  - State subsidies for food
  - Adopted "Five Year Plans" like Soviet Union
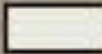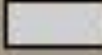
  British forced from Suez Canal

  Formation of alliances to defeat Israel, the British, & start socialist revolution
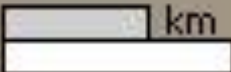
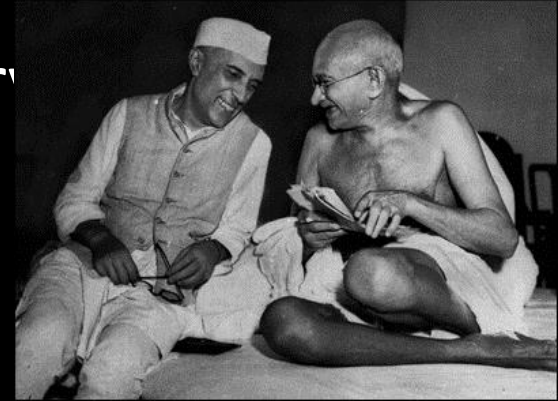 MOST REFORMS FAILED – successor Anwar Sadat rolled back, made peace with Israel, aligned with US (Assassinated)

JANUARY 2, 1978 $1.00
TIME
MAN OF THE YEAR

LEBANON
SYRIA
Tyre
Al Qunaytirah
GOLAN
HEIGHTS
Haifa
Sea of Galilee
WEST BANK
Jordan
Tel Aviv-Yafo
Amman
Jerusalem
Jericho
Hebron
Port
Said
GAZA
STRIP
Dead Sea
JORDAN
Suez Canal
SINAI
PENINSULA
Suez
Elat
EGYPT
Gulf of
Suez
Gulf of
Aqaba
SAUDI
ARABIA

Israel in 1949

Area Israel occupied after Six-Day War of 1967, but withdrew from between 1975 and 1982
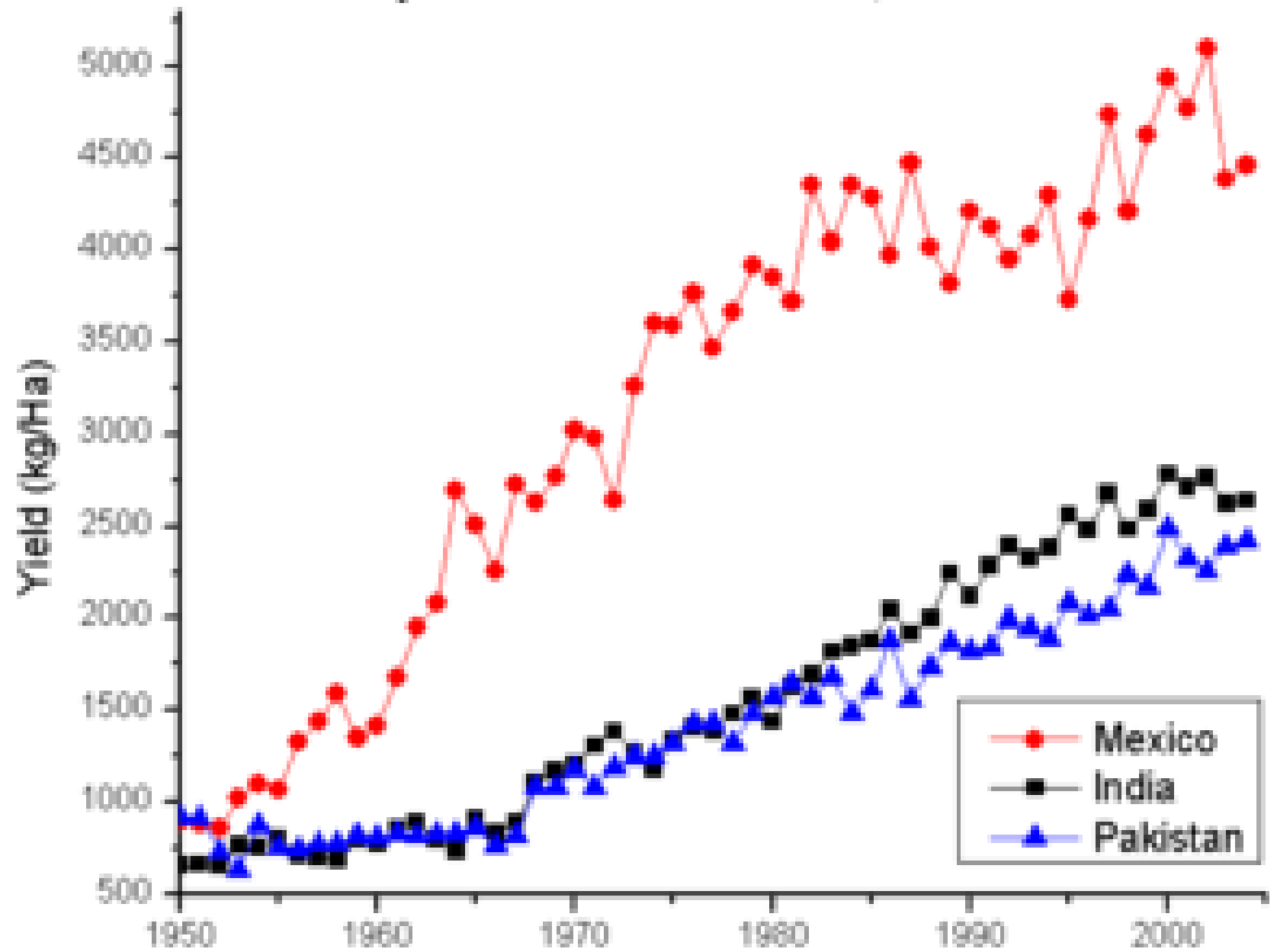
Area Israel occupied after Six-Day War and still controls

75 ▭ km
▭ mi

India

- Socialistic programs, but never a military govt.
- World's largest democracy
- Leader of "non-aligned" nations, accepted aid from both USSR & USA
- Nukes 1974 (Pakistan - 1988)
- Beneficiary of "Green Revolution"
- Massive population foils improvement & reform (almost 1 Billion)
- Middle class has grown – esp. in cities, Hyderabad

Wheat yields in selected countries, 1950-2004

Source: FAO

Iran – Shi'ite Islamic Republic

- Rule by pro-Western Shah, westernized
- Oil wealth unequally distributed by Shah
- 1979 – Islamic Revolution led by Ayatollah Khomeini (descendent of Muhammad)– Shiite Theocratic state
- American embassy held hostage for 444 days
- Lacked infrastructure of former colonies
- Strict implementation of Islamic law
- Decade long Iran-Iraq war – millions died
- Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in power – populist, wants nukes

South Africa - Apartheid

- Afrikaners (Dutch/French settler descendants) ran South Africa
- Institutionalized racism – Apartheid
- Black Africans lived in shantytowns, cheap labor source for European-owned companies
- Protest illegal, leaders killed (e.g. Biko)
- Dismantled by moderate Afrikaners
- 1994 – govt led by Nelson Mandela dismantled Apartheid system