

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY

## 2012 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 7

Analyze various factors that contributed to the process of decolonization in the period 1914–1975.

#### 9–8 points

- Thesis identifies at least TWO factors that contributed to the process of decolonization in the period 1914–1975. Thesis may appear in the opening or the closing paragraph.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Provides effective analysis of at least TWO factors; may focus on the process of decolonization for only ONE European empire OR a single non-European region.
- All major assertions are supported by specific pieces of relevant evidence.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

#### 7–6 points

- Thesis refers to at least TWO factors.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but not consistently followed
- Essay provides some analysis of at least TWO factors, possibly unevenly.
- All major assertions are supported by some relevant evidence.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

#### 5–4 points

- Thesis includes possible factors OR may identify ONE factor.
- Organization supports the argument.
- Essay may be primarily descriptive rather than analytical.
- Some evidence is included.
- May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

#### 3–2 points

- Thesis may be vague OR merely repeat or paraphrase the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay is merely descriptive and may be off task.
- Minimal evidence is provided.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

#### 1–0 points

- Thesis may not be supported or may be erroneous or missing.
- No discernible organization.
- Argument is off task or missing.
- Little or no supporting evidence is provided.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY

## 2012 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 7 (continued)

#### Historical Background

##### Possible Periodization

- First World War, interwar period, Second World War (1914–1945)
- Post-1945 era

##### Context: The New Imperialism

- Between 1870 and 1914 (some sources cite the 1880s), European political expansion brought much of the rest of the world under its direct control. Motives are usually identified as economic (raw materials, foreign markets, places for capital investment), geopolitical (protection of vital lanes of communication and transport), and sociocultural (Europe's so-called civilizing mission to Social Darwinist assertions that superior races have the right to test themselves on the field of honor).
- Some authors acknowledge resistance to European rule prior to the First World War. Others note that most people accepted rule by a small elite, a practice quite common before the arrival of Europeans. Anti-European movements often were divided into traditionalists who rejected the idea that Europe had something to teach the colonies versus modernizers who advocated a selective adoption of Western lifestyles and values.

##### Between the World Wars (1914–1945)

- Some colonial powers employed soldiers and laborers from the colonies during the First World War in Europe and other theaters of war. One textbook indicates that one million Africans, one million Indians, and one million soldiers from British dominions fought in the Great War.
- Some imperial powers encouraged colonial subjects of their rivals to revolt against their rulers. The most common example is the Arab Uprising against the Ottoman government.
- Either the British and French promised greater political authority to colonials or colonials expected greater political sovereignty in exchange for their support of the European imperial power — expectations that were not satisfied in the postwar era.
- Paris Peace Settlements (1919–1923):
  - Colonial aspirations were in part inspired by Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points and its support of the principle of self-determination.
  - The winners of the war established the mandate system in the lands of the defeated Central Powers. The Middle East mandates are described most often; textbooks describe them either as relatively quiet or as turbulent.
  - The empires of Britain and France were larger than before the First World War, but some textbooks point out that such empires now faced greater challenges to their authority.
- The interwar period (1919–1939) receives very uneven coverage in the textbooks. India demanded independence from European rule, Japan challenged Western interests in East Asia, and at least one textbook also notes the rise of anti-imperialism in Asia and Africa during the 1920s and 1930s. Gandhi led a nonviolent protest movement against British rule in the interwar period; Ho Chi Minh led a violent but unsuccessful peasant uprising in Indochina.
- The Japanese expansion into Southeast Asia during the Second World War came at the expense of the Western European empires like Britain and France. Japan justified its agenda on the grounds that Asia should be controlled by Asians. In reality the Japanese exploited the indigenous population for their own ends. The Japanese success, however, undermined Western prestige in Asia.

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY

## 2012 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 7 (continued)

#### Post-1945 Era and Decolonization

- Imperial collapse in Africa and Asia after 1945 occurred rapidly. Textbooks identify a variety of factors for the relatively rapid pace of decolonization: the loss of Western power, the intensified demand by African and Asian peoples for self-determination, concerns in the metropole over the cost of empire, the discrepancy between Western rhetoric regarding basic rights and its application into policy, efforts by the Cold War superpowers to extend their global influence. The texts sometimes offer a contrast between British and French decolonization.
- South and Southeast Asia — India, Indochina, Indonesia:
  - British authorities negotiated an end to imperial control in India. Despite Gandhi's opposition, the region's religious and ethnic divisions resulted in the partition of the subcontinent into two nation-states, India and Pakistan, with Pakistan itself later splitting into two states (present-day Pakistan and Bangladesh). Some textbooks note that partition proved violent and bloody.
  - Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh proclaimed Vietnam's independence in 1945 but were forced to fight a war against the colonial power, France. Military defeat at Dien Bien Phu compelled French recognition of Vietnamese independence at the Geneva Conference in 1954.
  - The Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) receives little treatment aside from an occasional reference to the violent expulsion of the Dutch (1945–1949).
- The Middle East and North Africa:
  - A number of texts identify the region as an arena for confrontation by the Cold War superpowers.
  - Britain surrendered control of Palestine to the United Nations. The state of Israel was proclaimed in 1948, setting the stage for a number of wars between Israel and its Arab neighbors. As a result, the national aspirations of the peoples of the region became entangled in the political agendas of the Cold War superpowers.
  - Egypt, a British protectorate for part of the early 20th century, challenged European authority in 1956 when its president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, nationalized the Suez Canal. The British and French invaded Egypt but were forced to back down by the open hostility of the American and Soviet governments, an indication of European weakness in the age of the superpowers.
  - An Algerian nationalist movement (the FLN) was established in 1954 and won independence after a vicious war characterized by acts of brutality and terrorism by both sides. French President Charles de Gaulle gradually negotiated French withdrawal from the colony in 1962.
- Sub-Saharan Africa:
  - Coverage of the process of decolonization for sub-Saharan Africa is uneven.
  - Kenya is sometimes contrasted with Ghana (violence vs. nonviolence), but limited analysis is offered. Some authors comment on the fact that decolonization in sub-Saharan Africa proved a relatively smooth transition.
  - Less common are references to the loss of the Portuguese empire (Angola and Mozambique) and the Belgian Congo.

While the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the rise of New Imperialism throughout Asia and Africa, leading to mighty European empires and colonialism, imperialism became increasingly outdated as the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed. Britain, once the empire on which the sun never set, grew content to let go of former colonies and lose imperial power, while France similarly decolonized after long, bloody wars. ~~Europe grew increasingly self-focused.~~ The process of decolonization in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was largely due to the changed economic situation of Europe, ~~reduced ideas of nationalism,~~ ~~and~~ changing views on European superiority, and an increase in nationalism around the world.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Europe was by far the economic and military center of the world. Imperialism worked well for them in that they were often simply superior technologically than the people they were oppressing. The invention of the Maxim gun let them easily crush uprisings ~~and~~ by ~~the~~ ~~with~~ civilizations with far less sophisticated technology. As examples such as the Opium Wars and forced opening of Japan shows, most non-European countries simply couldn't hope to match European might. However, this greatly changed after two devastating world wars. Europe was financially and militarily exhausted, and often unwilling or unable to maintain their new obtained control of their territories. ~~While~~ ~~some~~ countries such as England, realizing their reduced global role,

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let their colonies go peacefully, preferring a "Commonwealth" of economic partners rather than subjugated states. ~~The~~ Others, namely France, refused to realize their greatly reduced power and entered into long, protracted colonial wars. Their attempt to maintain the global influence they once had ultimately proved futile though, as ~~the~~ more and more of their already ~~weakened~~ lessened resources were drained in conflict. In the end, Charles de Gaulle ~~was~~ "solved" the decolonization problem simply by withdrawing troops from Algeria, allowing their independence after a very costly war.

Decolonization thus came about because European nations were no longer economically or militarily able to ~~retain~~ maintain their holds on distant colonies, which were often ~~or~~ financially draining to occupy even in times of peace.

Furthermore, while the 19<sup>th</sup> century had seen ~~the~~ the prominence of ideas such as the "White Man's Burden" and "Social Darwinism," Europeans no longer had the same sense of racial or innate superiority. World War I and II had shown the atrocities the supposedly "sophisticated" Europeans could commit, and outrage against the subjugation of foreign ethnicities became increasingly well heard. Europe had to a large degree ~~has~~ begun to lose their sense of racial ~~or~~ or national superiority, and instead increased concerns about national and ethnic identity. It no longer made sense to many that a European nation should pour resources into subjugating a race many miles away. In a Cold War world of two

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Opposing superpowers, colonies were increasingly just security threats as opposed to the sign of political power they once were. As European countries lost their sense of world dominance, they were more and more willing to let decolonization occur.

Nationalistic uprisings also led to ~~the~~ decolonization as a new wave of nationalism spread not only in Europe, but in their colonial possessions. From World War I, Britain and France had promised many of their colonies independence in return for help in the war effort. Ultimately though, this did not come about and instead new protectorates were formed despite Woodrow Wilson's pleas for self-determination. Of course, this was greatly ~~upsetting~~ upsetting to many colonies, and rebellion was increasingly common. In India, Mahatma Gandhi led a passive resistance ~~that~~ to British oppressors that ultimately convinced Britain to withdraw in the face of an increasingly capable and determined Indian population. More violent uprisings happened in places such as Algeria and Vietnam, where France was forced to withdraw in the face of a bloody and violent nationalistic revolt. Finally, the Suez Canal, the final bastion of European imperialism, was nationalized by the popular and extremely nationalistic Nasser, leader of Egypt. Although England and France attempted to respond, the opposition of the US and USSR forced them to back down, symbolizing the final concession of ~~the~~ imperial vestiges to nationalistic movements.

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Overall, the weakened European economy, loss of the sense of European superiority, and increasing trade & nationalism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century led to European deceleration. After two world wars, the European continent had been dramatically and profoundly changed, and this changed Europe could no longer pursue\* the imperialism that had been prevalent in the ~~past~~ 19<sup>th</sup> century 1800's.

\*and often did not even wish to pursue,

The ~~rush of nation~~ imperialist drive of many nations prompted them to amass large empires with colonies spread across the world. The period from 1914 to 1975 marked the ~~end~~ process of the ~~decolonization~~ decolonization of these empires. This process of decolonization was caused by a combination of factors, including Nationalist movements, bloody rebellions, and ~~peaceful~~ peaceful granting of sovereignty.

Nationalist sentiment was a prime factor that led to the decolonization of European empires. India is a prime example of this sentiment, as seen in its ~~rebellion~~ ~~against~~ fight to be free from British rule. The "great soul" of India, Gandhi, used Nationalist sentiment to encourage a break with their ~~colonizers~~ mother country. This was also present in the decolonization in Africa, with the nations banding together to overthrow their oppressors, as seen in the Belgian Democratic Congo. Loyalty to one's state and the desire to expel foreigners was a factor in the decolonization of the world.

Violent rebellions also contributed to the decolonization process. Ho Chi Minh's fight against the French in South-east Asia is a prime example of this. The French were unwilling to give up their territory willingly in the region, which led to a violent uprising. After this, the French relinquished their territorial claims in the area. This scenario also occurs in Africa, with



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Natives fighting against their western leaders. Rebellions against authority and the subsequent abandonment of territories were another factor that contributed to decolonization among the European colonies.

Many former colonies were also ~~willingly~~ willingly ~~reluctant~~ (reluctant), as the colonies were granted sovereignty by their mother country. The British colonies in the Middle East are a prime example of this phenomenon. Britain In addition to also giving up its colonies, Britain also provided use of its protection in Palestine as use for the Jewish state in Israel. Britain's colonies were the best adapted here among the best adapted to sovereignty, as there was a policy in place of appointing locals to leadership positions. Colonies were willingly gave up ~~for~~ ~~years~~ to prevent riots or to create a new state, contributing to decolonization.

Nationalist sentiment, violent rebellions, and the granting of sovereignty all contributed to the various world community ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~process~~ ~~of~~ as the process of decolonization.

Decolonization of European colonies in places like Africa between 1914 and 1975 can be attributed to many things. The most obvious being ~~war~~ caused by war including poor economies, loss of power, and over stretched governments.

Starting in 1914 wars including World Wars 1 and 2 devastated Europe. ~~Places~~<sup>Countries</sup> were destroyed during this time and the management of their original country was enough and the least of their concerns were colonies in Africa. The economies of many European countries were crushed the most major being Germany but France and Great Britain still had their problems. Funding for repairs to their own countries and people were more than enough and countries decided to let their colonies go.

The ~~for~~ number of wars during this time period also caused some countries to lose their power. This contributed to decolonization because power was low colonies were acquired and with loss of power came loss of colonies. This was seen in places like France and Great Britain but Britain did manage to keep India much larger than other colonies. This is seen because unlike other colonies India adopted ~~by~~ some British

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qualities:

The last factor of decolonization ~~is~~ due to war was overstretched governments. This was probably the largest factor in decolonization because it most directly affected the colonies. During this time colonies wanted to gain independence more so than in the past and they acted on this. Colonies would say they declared independence and ~~because~~ the countries were too busy they would agree. Had the countries not ~~been~~ fighting their own wars they could've sent military in to keep their colonies but ~~because~~ they couldn't ~~they~~ decolonization began and continued.

Decolonization and the independence it granted began a new ~~is~~ world. The wars and ~~the~~ their poor economies, loss of power, and over stretched governments led to this world change.

# AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY 2012 SCORING COMMENTARY

## Question 7

### Overview

This question dealt with one of the most fundamental developments of the twentieth century: the changing relationship between Europe and the world. The question was intended to measure students' ability to trace causal links between developments in Europe and its colonies and the eventual independence of nearly all colonies by 1975.

### Sample: 7A

**Score: 9**

The thesis of this essay identifies three factors that contributed to decolonization: the economic changes in Europe, changes in attitudes about European superiority, and the growth of nationalism globally. The thesis paragraph succeeds in placing the process of decolonization within the larger context of Europe's relations with other regions of the world, a theme sustained in the first body paragraph (references to the Maxim gun, the Opium Wars, and the opening of Japan). The essay then proceeds to explain how and why European imperial states responded to such pressures, comparing the ways Britain and France responded when their colonial authority was challenged. The rejection of racialist thinking is defined and integrated with a discussion of the Cold War. Finally, the essay takes into account the rise of nationalist sentiment in the context of self-determination. All factors are supported by relevant and copious evidence. The presentation is poised and sophisticated.

### Sample: 7B

**Score: 6**

The thesis of this essay refers to three possible factors that contributed to decolonization: nationalist movements, rebellions, and peaceful granting of sovereignty. The essay provides some analysis of at least two of these factors, addressing the questions of why France relinquished its holdings in Southeast Asia and why the transition from colonial to postcolonial regimes was smoother in some British colonies than it was in other European colonial possessions. Major assertions are supported with some evidence (e.g., Gandhi and India, Belgian Congo, Ho Chi Minh, British policy toward local elites). Although the essay suggests an effort to address all aspects of the question, the relatively weak level of analysis, the lack of analysis for all factors identified in the thesis, and the limited evidence prevented it from earning a higher score.

### Sample: 7C

**Score: 2**

This essay's thesis is insufficiently developed and deals in generalizations ("poor economies, loss of power, and over stretched governments"). The essay is essentially descriptive, and its treatment of decolonization is superficial. There are a number of vague and unsupported claims (e.g., that Great Britain managed to keep India longer "because unlike other colonies India adopted some British qualities"). There is only minimal supporting evidence. Although the essay shows some awareness of the process of decolonization, it does not provide a truly analytical response to the question or use sufficient historical evidence in support of its arguments.