

<p><b>Vietnam War</b></p> <p>After French withdrawal in 1954, Vietnam was divided. <b>Ho Chi Minh</b> created Communist state in north; south was pro-Western.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reunification elections were never held; south believed elections in north would be rigged</li> <li>• Guerrillas in south (<b>Viet Cong</b>) began war with northern help; by 1964, 500,000 U.S. troops were involved to stop spread of Communism. Despite advanced technology, U.S. could not turn the tide. U.S. troops withdrew in 1973. Vietnam was unified under Communism by 1975</li> </ul>	<p><b>South Africa/Apartheid</b></p> <p>In 1948, Dutch-speaking white Afrikaners (<b>Boers</b>) created <b>apartheid</b> policy, persecuted black South Africans, took away their rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blacks resisted, both peacefully and violently</li> <li>• In 1989, when years of economic sanctions were wrecking economy, whites elected <b>F.W. DeKlerk</b>. He repealed apartheid legislation.</li> <li>• De Klerk and <b>Nelson Mandela</b>, a prominent black leader jailed for years, negotiated a constitution and multiracial elections.</li> <li>• Mandela became free South Africa's first black president and served two terms.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mikhail Gorbachev</b></p> <p>In 1985, <b>Gorbachev</b> became leader of Soviet Union. Nation suffered from gross inefficiency, and was losing a war in Afghanistan. To preserve Communism, Gorbachev introduced various reforms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Glasnost</b>: Greater freedom of expression</li> <li>• <b>Perestroika</b> ("restructuring"): limited economic reforms — allowed small private businesses, gave factory managers greater control</li> <li>• <b>Foreign Policy</b>: Gorbachev withdrew from Afghanistan, held summit talks with U.S.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Islamic Fundamentalism</b></p> <p>A belief that Muslims should strictly follow Islamic law and resist Western influences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Iranian Revolution (1979)</b>: Pro-Western Shah overthrown. <b>Ayatollah Khomeini</b> established a religious state based on Islamic law. U.S. embassy personnel in Tehran were seized, held hostage for over a year.</li> <li>• <b>Afghanistan</b>: Muslim rebels overthrew Soviet puppet government. The <b>Taliban</b> set up an extreme Islamic government, which the U.S. overthrew in 2002 because it was protecting al-Qaeda terrorists.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Collapse of the Soviet Union</b></p> <p>Gorbachev's reforms unexpectedly led to demise of Soviet Union:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elections</b>: In 1989-1990 he allowed free elections in Eastern Europe, and Communists lost</li> <li>• <b>Ethnic Nationalism</b>: Various Soviet ethnic groups began demanding independence</li> <li>• <b>Coup of August 1991</b>: Hardliners tried to seize power, but coup collapsed and Communist Party was discredited</li> <li>• <b>Final Breakup</b>: In late 1991, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus broke away, formed <b>Commonwealth of Independent States</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Deng Xiaoping</b></p> <p>He became China's ruler after Mao died in 1976.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deng attacked the leaders of the Cultural Revolution, put the "Gang of Four" on trial</li> <li>• He sought gradual change to free market, while holding onto Communist Party power</li> <li>• Deng encouraged private enterprise, passed laws to spur foreign investment, greatly increasing trade with West</li> <li>• <b>Tiananmen Square (1989)</b>: When students protesting corruption began to demand democracy and reform, Deng's government brutally crushed the demonstration</li> </ul>

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<p><b>International Terrorism</b></p> <p><b>The Problem:</b> Terrorism is use of violence against civilians for political purposes. Terrorists hijack planes, bomb buildings, and assassinate people. In the future they may use biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.</p> <p><b>Solutions:</b> Negotiating with terrorists is generally considered useless. Undercover agents work to track down terrorist cells, arrest and convict perpetrators. Sometimes attacks are made on countries harboring terrorist groups.</p>	<p><b>Problems of Developing Nations</b></p> <p><b>The Problem:</b> Three-quarters of the world's people live in developing <b>Third World</b> nations. They have low incomes, short life spans, poor education and medical care, low productivity.</p> <p><b>Solutions:</b> Developed nations need to make greater investments in Third World economies, and perhaps forgive Third World debts. In addition, developing nations must seek to grow more food, improve education, develop a skilled work force, and limit population growth.</p>
<p><b>Deforestation</b></p> <p><b>The Problem:</b> Forests provide much of the oxygen humans need in order to breathe. Tropical rainforests also have unique plants that often have medical uses. Deforestation is the clearing of these areas by removing the trees.</p> <p><b>Solutions:</b> An international campaign is trying to encourage nations to preserve their forests. Some forest lands are being bought by private groups to prevent the loss of the trees.</p>	<p><b>The Status of Women</b></p> <p><b>The Problem:</b> In developed nations, women have political and social equality. In many developing nations, women are treated as inferior and have few if any rights.</p> <p><b>Solutions:</b> During the <b>Women's Liberation Movement</b>, many developed countries passed laws prohibiting discrimination against women. The <b>Beijing Conference</b> (1995) addressed the problems of women's rights around the world.</p>
<p><b>Desertification</b></p> <p><b>The Problem:</b> Changes in the climate, such as <b>global warming</b>, are leading to persistent droughts in parts of the world. Regions like the <b>Sahel</b>, south of Africa's Sahara Desert, are turning into desert lands, putting millions of people at risk of malnutrition and starvation.</p> <p><b>Solutions:</b> International relief efforts are under way, as well as planting trees to reduce soil erosion.</p>	<p><b>Urbanization/Modernization</b></p> <p><b>Urbanization:</b> Movement of people from countryside to cities. In the Third World, as millions pour into cities, shortages of housing, jobs, transportation, sanitation and other services arise.</p> <p><b>Modernization:</b> Shedding traditional beliefs in favor of modern ideas and technology. Adjusting to these changes creates problems and identity conflicts. Islamic Fundamentalism is one way people have reacted to modernization.</p>

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