



African Student

many different places around the world. While there, they learned new ideas and skills. When they returned home, they were not content with conditions in Africa. They thought that Africans should rule themselves.

The way European powers ruled their colonies also helped nationalism grow. Each power ruled differently. The British allowed some self-government and gave Africans in their colonies a general education. The French and the Portuguese did not allow Africans in their colonies to practice any self-government. The French educated some Africans, while the Portuguese provided almost no education.

Nationalism grew quickly among educated Africans, who worked for independence in different ways. They formed political parties and bargained with government leaders. They also boycotted goods from the colonial countries. In some cases, violence broke out.

In 1960, 17 African countries became independent. The year became known as "the year of Africa." Over time, other African colonies freed themselves from European rule. In 1980, Zimbabwe, formerly called Rhodesia, became the 51st African country to gain independence. One of the few remaining areas that is not independent is Namibia (nah mib' ē uh), which is under the control of the Republic of South Africa.

Struggle for Black Rights In South Africa, which is ruled by its white minority, there is an ongoing struggle for black rights. Under South Africa's policy of **apartheid** (uh pahr' tāt), or separation of the races, blacks are not allowed to vote, although they make up 75 percent of the population. They must live only in certain areas, their education is limited, and they are not allowed to hold good jobs.

Blacks, Indians, and some whites want to get rid of apartheid. Blacks also want more rights, such as the right to vote. To this end, they have protested in several different ways. Some have followed a policy of civil disobedience. Others have tried to bring about changes through strikes and other kinds of economic pressure. Still others have carried on guerrilla warfare.

Political and Economic Development When African countries became independent, most set up democratic governments. Many of these governments did not last, however, and today most African countries have one-party governments or are ruled by a military leader.

When the Europeans set up boundaries in Africa, they generally paid no attention to national groups. Sometimes, they put groups that had been fighting one another for hundreds of years in the same country. Because of this, several African countries have suffered from civil war since they became independent.