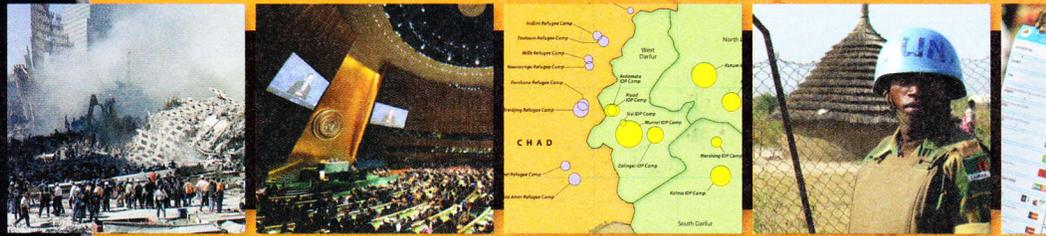


There's More Online!

- ✓ CHART/GRAPH Countries with Nuclear Weapons Capability
- ✓ IMAGE Elections in East Timor
- ✓ IMAGE Ground Zero, New York City
- ✓ IMAGE UN General Assembly
- ✓ IMAGE UN Peacekeeping Forces in Sudan
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ
- ✓ MAP Darfur Refugee and Displaced Persons Camps
- ✓ PRIMARY SOURCE United Nations Charter
- ✓ VIDEO Political Challenges in the Modern World



Reading **HELPDESK**



**Academic Vocabulary**

- chemical
- drama
- arbitrarily

**Content Vocabulary**

- **peacekeeping forces**
- **nuclear proliferation**
- **bioterrorism**

**TAKING NOTES:**

**Key Ideas and Details**

**Summarizing** As you read, use a table like the one below to identify important political events that have occurred in modern Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Africa	Asia	Latin America

**LESSON 1**

**Political Challenges in the Modern World**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

*What influences global political and economic relationships?*

**IT MATTERS BECAUSE**

*In today's world, problems in one part of the world can affect people all over the globe. Terrorism, civil war, and ethnic conflict are some of the most difficult political challenges of the modern world.*

**The United Nations**

**GUIDING QUESTION** *What are the structure and goals of the United Nations?*

In recent decades, many nations have become convinced that there are significant problems that can be solved only by working with other nations. Today, the United Nations (UN) is one of the most visible symbols of the new globalism. The UN was founded in 1945 at the end of World War II. Two of the UN's goals are peace and human dignity. Its members pledged:

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

“to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights... and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

—from the Preamble to the United Nations Charter, June 26, 1945

The General Assembly of the United Nations is made of representatives from all member nations. It has the power to discuss any important question and to recommend action. The Security Council advises the General Assembly and passes resolutions that require the organization to act. Five nations have permanent seats on the Security Council: the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France, and China. Ten other members are chosen by the General Assembly and serve for limited terms. Because each permanent member can veto a decision, deliberations can often end in stalemate. The UN Secretariat, an administrative body, is headed by the secretary-general. The International Court of Justice (sometimes referred to as the World Court) is the judicial body of the UN.

UN programs and specialized agencies work to address economic and social problems and to organize conferences on important issues such as women's rights and the environment. UN **peacekeeping forces** settle conflicts and supervise truces in "hot spots" around the globe.

**READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Contrasting** How do the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council differ?

## International Security

**GUIDING QUESTION** *What international security issues confront the post-Cold War world?*

Despite the efforts of the United Nations, numerous challenges remain in the effort to provide security in today's world.

### Weapons of Mass Destruction

Modern technology has led to frightening methods of mass destruction: nuclear, biological, and **chemical** weapons. The end of the Cold War reduced the risk of nuclear conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. However, nuclear weapons still exist and nuclear conflicts remain possible.

The UN established the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1957. This agency is a safeguard system against **nuclear proliferation**—the spread of nuclear weapons production technology and knowledge to nations without that capability. A great risk comes from countries that have not joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)—India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea—and from countries that have violated the NPT, such as Iran. In 1998 India and Pakistan exploded nuclear devices underground. North Korea performed its first nuclear test in October 2006, and Iran refused to shelve its nuclear enrichment program.

Since 2000, there has also been an increased awareness of the threat from biological and chemical weapons. Biowarfare, the use of disease and poison against civilians and soldiers in wartime, is not new. For example, chemical weapons were used extensively in World War I and during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. Governments have agreed to limit the research, production, and use of weapons of mass destruction, but these agreements are difficult to enforce. Furthermore, these measures have not prevented terrorists from practicing **bioterrorism**, the use of biological and chemical weapons in terrorist attacks.

### The Challenge of Terrorism

Acts of terror have become a regular feature of modern society. Terrorists often kill civilians and take hostages to achieve their political goals. Beginning in the late 1970s and 1980s, many countries placed their concern about terrorism at the top of foreign policy agendas. Terrorist acts have received considerable media attention. When Palestinian terrorists kidnapped and killed 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games in 1972, hundreds of millions of people watched the **drama** unfold on television.

Some terrorists are militant nationalists who want separatist states. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), for example, wants to unite Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic. IRA leaders now seem more willing to open normal relations with the police of Northern Ireland after decades of violence. The group Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) employs violence as a tool to free the Basque region in the western Pyrenees from Spanish control.

A radical Communist guerrilla group in Peru, known as Shining Path, also used terrorist violence. Aiming to create a classless society, Shining Path killed mayors, missionaries, priests, and peasants across Peru.

### Nuclear Proliferation

“The threat of nuclear terrorism is real and current... the existence of a nuclear threat anywhere is a threat everywhere, and as a global community, we will win or lose this battle together.”

—Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General, IAEA, November 8, 2004

**DBQ** **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS**

Why does the Director General argue that stopping nuclear terrorism requires a global effort?

### peacekeeping forces

military forces drawn from neutral members of the United Nations to settle conflicts and supervise truces

**chemical** used in or produced by chemistry

**nuclear proliferation** the spread of nuclear weapons production technology and knowledge to nations without that capability

**bioterrorism** the use of biological and chemical weapons in terrorist attacks

**drama** state of intense conflict



▲ Fire and rescue workers search for survivors amid the rubble of the World Trade Center two days after the September 11, 2001, attacks.

► **CRITICAL THINKING**

**Describing** What was the immediate response to the attacks of September 11, 2001?

One of the most destructive acts of terrorism occurred on September 11, 2001. Al-Qaeda terrorists directed by Osama bin Laden hijacked four commercial jets in Boston, Newark, and Washington, D.C., flying two into the World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon. Almost 3,000 people were killed. President George W. Bush vowed to wage war on terrorism. This process began in Afghanistan in October 2001. President Barack Obama announced a major U.S. victory against al-Qaeda in 2011, when U.S. forces killed bin Laden at his hideout in Pakistan.

Worldwide, one of the most noticeable changes in public policies since September 11, 2001, has been increased security at airports. Many European and Asian governments have also begun working more closely together in their intelligence and police activities to track down terrorists.

### **Challenges in the Middle East**

The war on terrorism spread to the Middle East when the United States attacked Iraq in March 2003. President Bush claimed that Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, had chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction and that Saddam had close ties to al-Qaeda. Both claims turned out to be mistaken and the United States soon became bogged down in a war in which Hussein's supporters, foreign terrorists, and Islamic militants all battled the American-led forces.

By 2006, Iraq seemed to be descending into a widespread civil war, especially between the Shia, who controlled southern Iraq, and the Sunnis, who controlled central Iraq. An American troop surge in 2007 helped stabilize conditions within a year. The U.S. and Iraqi governments then agreed to a complete withdrawal of American troops by 2011. President Obama fulfilled this promise. After more than nine years in Iraq, all remaining American troops left the country on December 18, 2011.

Much of the terrorism in the Middle East is aimed against the West. One reason Middle Eastern terrorists have targeted Westerners can be traced to Western investment in the Middle East oil industry, which began in the 1920s. This industry brought wealth to ruling families in some Middle Eastern kingdoms, but most citizens remained very poor. They often blamed the West, especially the United States, for supporting the ruling families.

The oil business increased Middle Eastern contact with the West. Some Muslims feared that this contact would weaken their religion and their way of life. Some Muslims began organizing to overthrow their pro-Western governments. Muslims who support these movements are called fundamentalist militants. They promote their own vision of what a pure Islamic society should be. Most Muslims around the world do not share this vision, do not support terrorism, and some are terror victims.

**READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Determining Cause and Effect** How have governments responded to terrorism since September 11, 2001?

## Civil War, Ethnic Conflict, and New Democracies

**GUIDING QUESTIONS** How have civil war, ethnic conflict, and genocide affected some nations in the post-Cold War period, and how have governments and nongovernmental organizations responded to them? Where have new democracies emerged in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries?

Ethnic and religious conflicts, which often lead to civil war, have plagued many developing nations and some developed nations in Europe. In Northern Ireland, Protestants and Catholics have frequently clashed. The Serbs used ethnic cleansing in the 1990s to kill Bosnian Muslims during the war in Bosnia. After Cyprus achieved independence, fighting between Greek and Turkish Cypriots led to a division of the island.

Some conflicts that stem from regional, ethnic, and religious differences in the 1990s and 2000s have led to the creation of new countries with fledgling democracies. Several states of the former Yugoslavia and East Timor became independent democratic states in recent years.

### Africa

Within many African nations, warring ethnic groups undermined the concept of nationhood. This is not surprising because the colonial powers had **arbitrarily** drawn the boundaries of African nations. Virtually all of these states included widely different ethnic, linguistic, and territorial groups. In central Africa, fighting between the Hutu and the Tutsi created unstable governments. In Rwanda, brutal civil war broke out in 1994 as Hutu militias began a campaign of genocide against Tutsis, killing at least 500,000. As thousands of Rwandan refugees died in camps, the United States began a relief operation in conjunction with the UN. In 1997 a UN-sponsored war crimes tribunal began in Tanzania. In 1998 the tribunal sentenced the former Rwandan prime minister to life imprisonment for genocide.

Ethnic violence also plagued Sudan, Africa's largest nation. In the western province of Darfur, Arab militias attacked African ethnic groups with the support of the Arab-led government. Entire villages were burned, more than 200,000 people died, and more than 2 million fled their homes. The UN took over a struggling peacekeeping operation from the African Union at the end of 2007. In 2008 the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for the sitting Sudanese president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. In a 2011 referendum, southern Sudan voted to become independent from the north.

Desire for more democratic government led to a series of protests in Egypt and surrounding countries in 2011. Working to end nearly 30 years of autocratic rule, protesters demanded that Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak step down. After days of continued unrest, Mubarak resigned.

**arbitrarily** at one's discretion; randomly

▼ A poll worker counts ballots for the 2007 election in East Timor.



PHOTO: JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/Getty Images

## Asia

Several areas in Asia and Southeast Asia experienced ethnic and religious conflict, including Tibet, East Timor, and Sri Lanka. Tibet seeks independence from the Chinese government that has suppressed dissent among ethnic minorities. The Dalai Lama led the government of Tibet in exile from India since 1959 but stepped down in 2011.

In 1999 the people of East Timor voted to become free of Indonesian rule, which was followed by violence between Christians and Muslims on the island. Nearly 10,000 died from the conflict. In 2002 East Timor (Timor-Leste) was internationally recognized as an independent country. In 2007, with the help of the UN, East Timor held mostly peaceful democratic elections.

In Sri Lanka, there has been tension and violence since 1983 between the majority Sinhalese (who are mostly Buddhist) who lead the government and the minority Tamils (who are mostly Hindu). A 2002 ceasefire halted the violence temporarily, but it ended with renewed violence in 2008. The military conflict ended in 2010.

## Latin America

In recent years, democracy has also begun to flourish in Latin America. With the debt crisis in Latin America in the 1980s came a movement toward democracy as people realized that military power without popular consent could not maintain a strong state.

In Brazil the military leadership opened the door to a return to democracy in 1985. In the 1990s, democratic presidents restored some stability to the economy, but the gap between rich and poor remained wide. This led to the election of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in 2002, Brazil's first left-wing president in four decades. He was successful in promoting rapid economic growth.

A series of military dictators ruled Venezuela during the first half of the twentieth century. Hugo Chavez became a folk hero to the Venezuelan people when he opposed the military government. As a result, he was elected as president in 1998 in a landslide victory and reelected in 2006. In 2007 Chavez began to nationalize energy and communications firms, reducing foreign influence in its economy. Critics charge that he has taken away the freedom of the press. Chavez was reelected in October 2012.

### **READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Explaining** How did governments and international organizations respond to the conflicts in Rwanda and Darfur?

## LESSON 1 REVIEW



### Reviewing Vocabulary

1. **Making Inferences** Why have countries sought to stop nuclear proliferation and the use of chemical and biological weapons?

### Using Your Notes

2. **Comparing** Use your notes to compare the political challenges faced in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

### Answering the Guiding Questions

3. **Identifying** What are the structure and goals of the United Nations?
4. **Drawing Conclusions** What international security issues confront the post-Cold War world?

5. **Assessing** How have civil war, ethnic conflict, and genocide affected some nations in the post-Cold War period, and how have governments and nongovernmental organizations responded to them?

6. **Stating** Where have new democracies emerged in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries?

### Writing Activity

7. **ARGUMENT** Research a place where the United Nations has deployed peacekeeping forces, and write an essay on whether or not those forces have been effective at promoting the UN's goals.