

Module: Cultural Geography
Topic Content: Shifting Political Boundaries

Shifting Political Boundaries



Click next to begin.

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Menu

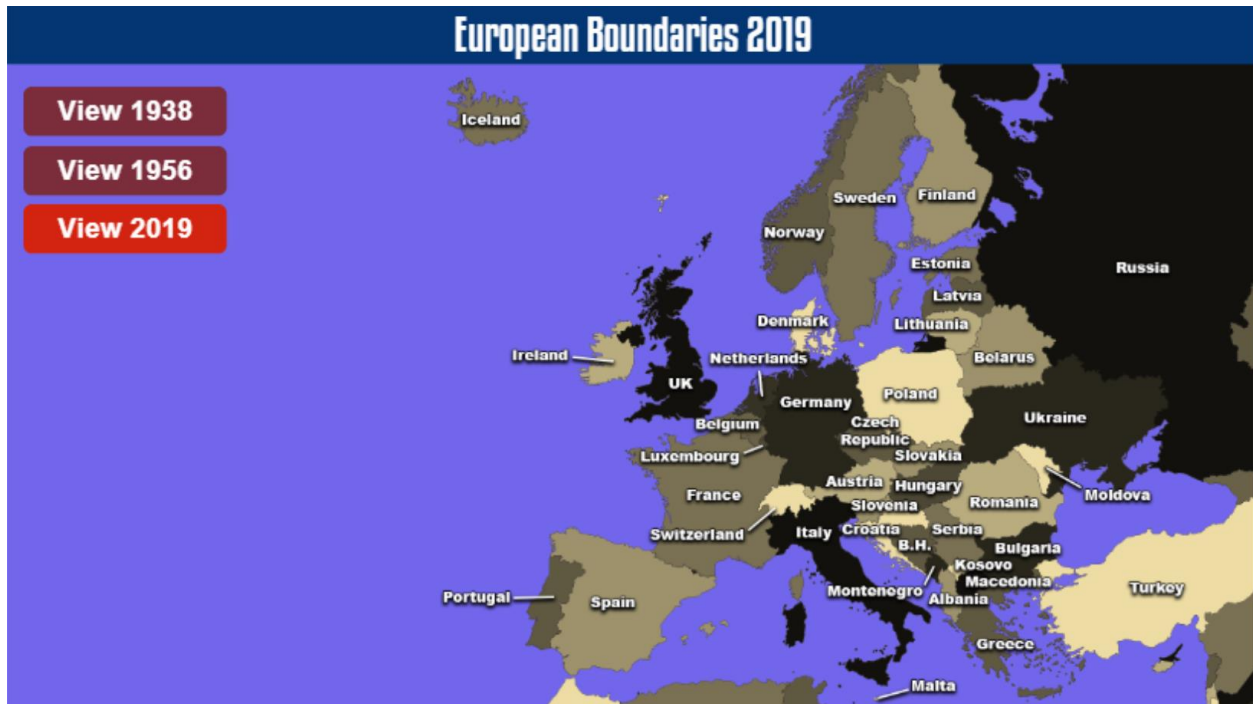


Maps illustrate how regional perspectives shift over time, particularly when you examine how political boundaries have changed. Click each of the regions on the map below to learn more.

Module: Cultural Geography

Topic Content: Shifting Political Boundaries

European Boundaries

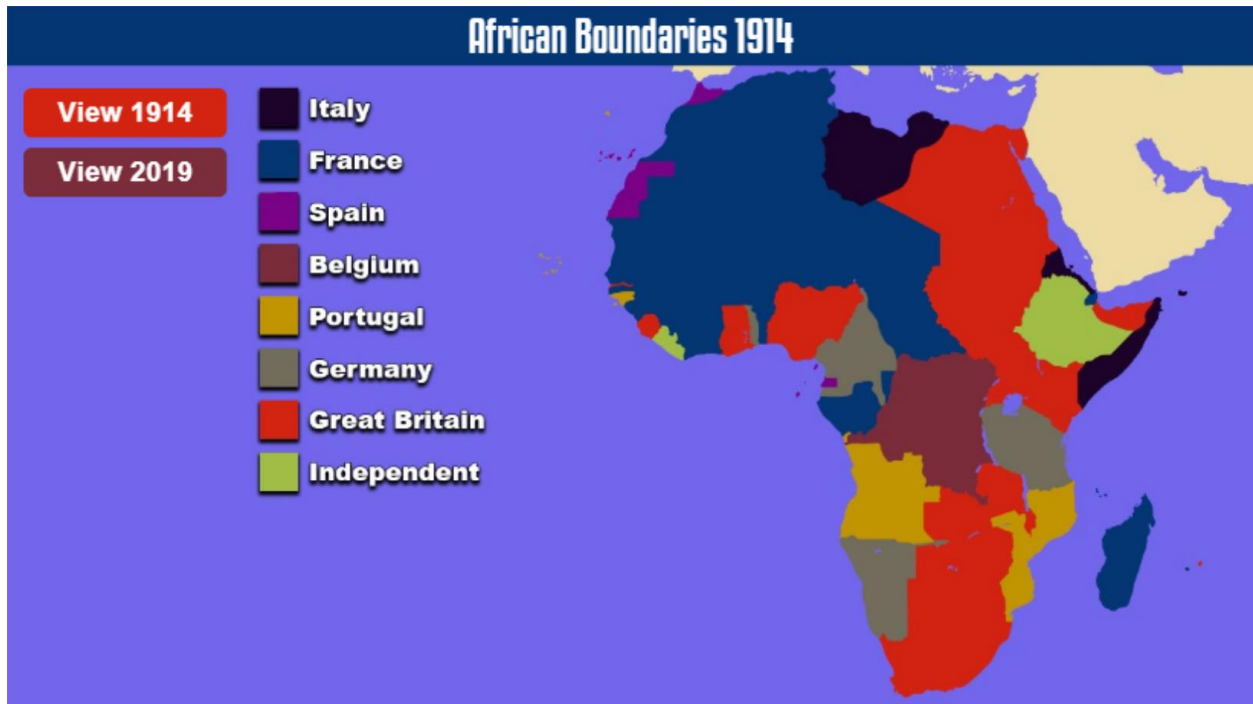


After World War II, Europe was essentially split into two regions. Eastern Europe was controlled by the Soviet Union and its communist allies, under an alliance known as the Warsaw Pact. Western Europe was controlled by the U.S. and other members of NATO. The end of the Cold War and the fall of the Soviet Union led to the creation of several new European nations.

Module: Cultural Geography

Topic Content: Shifting Political Boundaries

African Boundaries

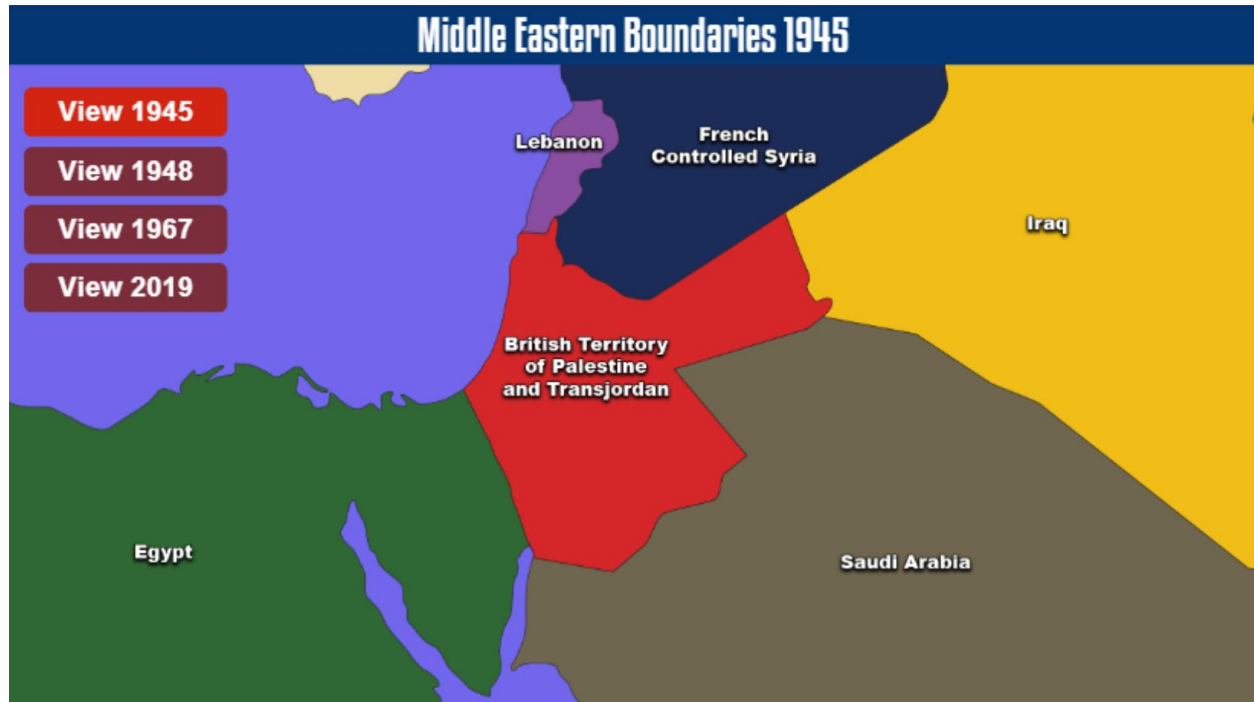


Multiple European nations began to rapidly colonize Africa in the late 1800s. This was known as the Scramble for Africa, and resulted in European control of the continent. The continent was gradually decolonized in the second half of the twentieth century.

Module: Cultural Geography

Topic Content: Shifting Political Boundaries

Middle Eastern Boundaries



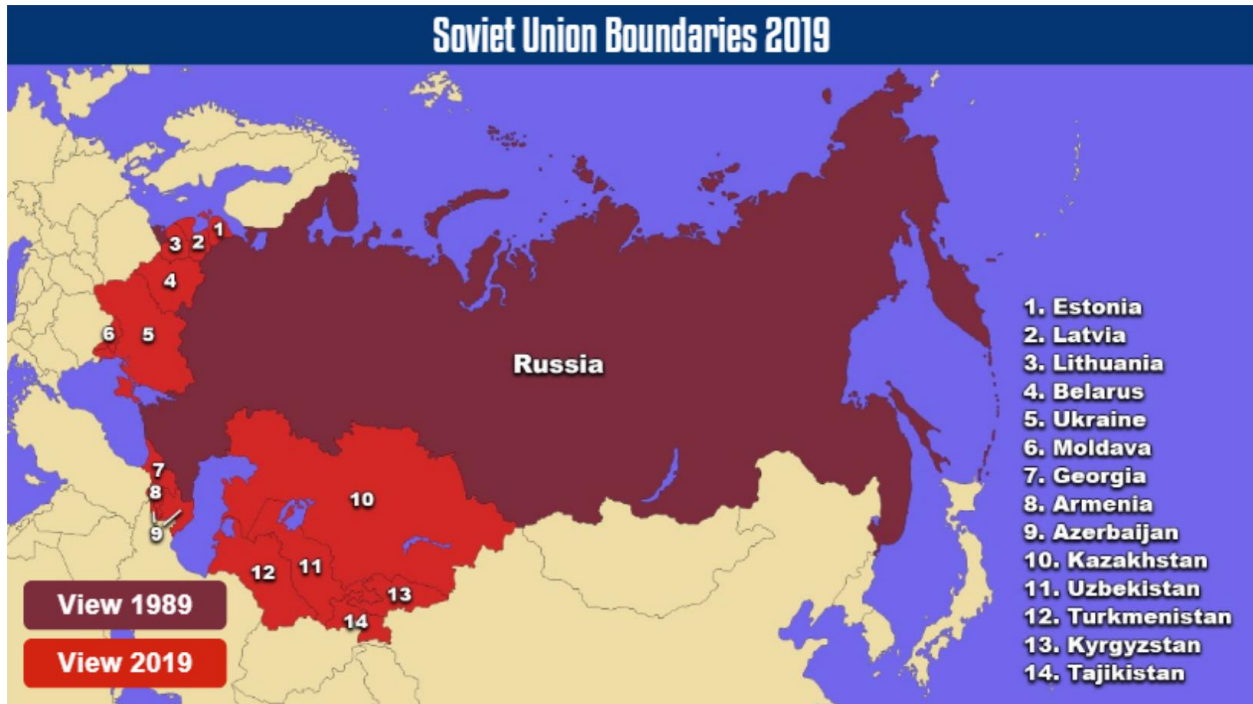
After World War II, the United Nations divided Palestine between the Arab population and the growing Jewish population. The Arab population rejected the proposal, but the state of Israel declared independence in 1948.

Other Arab nations in the region formed a military coalition against Israel, which resulted in several wars. Israeli victories in the ongoing conflict led to an expansion of its borders, and Israel gained control of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula. The Sinai Peninsula was later returned to Egypt, and the Golan Heights is still considered disputed territory with Syria.

Module: Cultural Geography

Topic Content: Shifting Political Boundaries

Russian Boundaries



The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or USSR, was a socialist state that existed during the twentieth century. The Soviet Union was comprised of fifteen republics, including Russia. After the collapse of the USSR, the republics broke into individual sovereign states.