

Growth of Terrorism Reading Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____



Iraq

In 1917, during World War I, Britain seized control of Baghdad, the capital of Iraq. Britain's control was approved in 1920, by the League of Nations, sparking outrage and nationwide revolt from the Iraqis. Iraq finally became independent in 1932, but political tensions continued in the country for decades, with different powers seizing control. In 1979 Saddam Hussein took control of Iraq and eliminated all his political enemies. During Hussein's reign people were killed, tortured, and arbitrarily arrested. In 1980 Iraq invaded Iran after years of disagreements over territory which began the Iran-Iraq War. After eight years of fighting, the countries agreed to a ceasefire, leaving Iraq in debt. Seeking to obtain oil, control of more land, and gain monetary power, Saddam Hussein invaded nearby Kuwait in 1990 and ignited a worldwide trade embargo. The United States and many other countries rushed to Kuwait's aid and the Persian Gulf War was quickly ended in February 1991. Once again, Iraq was in debt and now subject to a weapons inspection program by the United Nations to prevent the use of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons. For years Iraq continued to shelter and sponsor extremist and terrorist groups like the Abu Nidal Organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Explain the power struggle and challenges in Iraq.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan's political climate was shaky, and there were continual struggles for power. In 1979 the Soviet Union (USSR) invaded Afghanistan to support its communist government. What resulted was a civil war, with different Afghan guerrilla groups controlling rural areas of Afghanistan, while the USSR controlled urban areas. Millions of Afghans fled to Pakistan to avoid the war and militia groups in their country. By 1988 the Geneva Accords were signed to end the Soviet-Afghan War, causing the USSR to withdraw and the extremist military group al-Qaeda was formed under its founder Osama bin Laden. Al-Qaeda soon began raising money, and establishing training camps in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Sudan, gaining more power. Al-Qaeda started launching attacks

Growth of Terrorism Reading Sheet (cont.)

and bombings in various nations. On February 26, 1993, Ramzi Yousef, who had ties to al-Qaeda, drove a truck with explosives beneath the World Trade Center, in New York City. Six people, including one pregnant woman, were killed and more than a thousand were injured in the attack. By 1995, the Afghani people faced extreme poverty and challenges, and a new extremist militia, the Taliban, was able to take power in the country.

Explain the power struggle and challenges in Afghanistan.

Iran

During World War II Iran declared itself neutral and declined to remove German engineers and technicians when requested by the British government. Britain and the Soviet Union, feeling that Iran leaned pro-Axis, since it would not remove German engineers, decided to force the leader, Reza Shah, out of power, replacing him with his son, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi. Many were not happy with Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi's pro-Western ideology and rule, especially after he implemented "The White Revolution" in 1963, where he redistributed land from wealthy landowners to small-scale farmers and compensated the wealthy landowners with share in state-owned industries, gave Iranian women the right to vote, divorce and other freedoms, and promoted industrial expansion, among other things. Iranians mass rioted, which over time led to a revolution. Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi fled to several countries before arriving in the United States in 1979 for cancer treatment. While he was out of Iran, another assumed the throne, and the Iranians demanded Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi be brought back to Iran. Iranian students who were part of the revolution stormed a U.S. Embassy in Tehran, igniting political tensions between the United States and Iran. In 1980 Iraq invaded Iran after years of disagreements over territory, which began the eight-year-long Iran-Iraq War. Iran continued to back networks of armed militia groups in the Middle East to advance its regional interests, for instance Iran-backed militia, Hizballah, bombed U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon in 1983. The U.S. tried compelling Iran to cease its support of acts of international terrorism and placed oil and trade sanctions on Iran, hoping to cripple its income which helped finance these extremist groups.

Explain the power struggle and challenges in Iran.
