

Chapter Summary

Section 1: Conflicts Divide Nations

In the 1980s and 90s, violent ethnic and religious conflicts took place in countries such as Northern Ireland, the former Yugoslavia, and Chechnya. Several led to civil wars.

Section 2: Struggles in Africa

Ethnic and religious differences led to conflict in a number of African nations. In South Africa, blacks struggled against apartheid. Ethnic and religious conflicts led to war in Rwanda and Darfur in the Sudan.



Chapter Summary (continued)

Section 3: Conflicts in the Middle East

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has led to wars and constant conflict. Other major conflicts include civil war in Lebanon and several wars involving Iraq.

Objectives

- Explain the complex causes of ethnic and religious conflicts.
- Describe how war ravaged Chechnya.
- Understand how Yugoslavia broke apart.



Terms and People

- **Northern Ireland** – six counties in the northern portion of the island of Ireland; a part of the United Kingdom that has had a long religious conflict
- **Good Friday Agreement** – 1998 peace accord to end the fighting between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland
- **Chechnya** – a republic within Russia where rebels have fought for independence from Russia
- **multiethnic** – made up of several ethnic groups

Terms and People (Continued)

- **Slobodan Milosevic** – Serbian president and nationalist; supplied arms and money to Serbian rebels fighting in Bosnia, accused of ethnic cleansing
- **ethnic cleansing** – the killing or forcible removal of different ethnicities from an area by an aggressor so that only the ethnic group of the aggressor remains
- **Kosovo** – a province of Serbia with an Albanian ethnic majority that declared independence in 2008



Why have ethnic and religious conflicts divided some nations?

Civil wars and regional conflicts have complex causes.

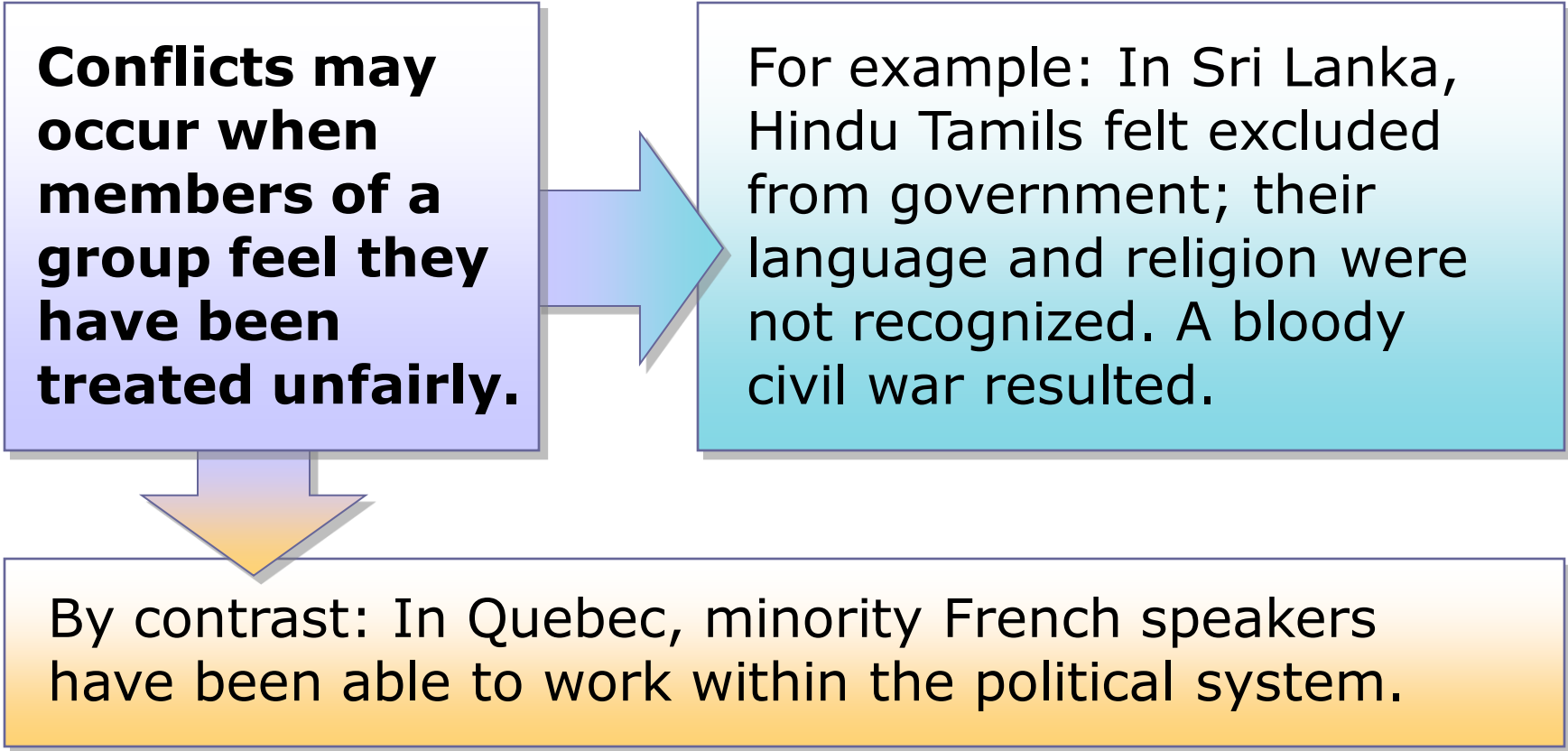
Rivalries between ethnic, religious and nationalist groups have often led to these conflicts.

Many new nations were created after World War II.

The European powers who drew their borders had little concern for ethnic, religious, or regional differences.

New nations were created with culturally diverse populations. Often one ethnic group dominated.

Conflicts may occur when members of a group feel they have been treated unfairly.



For example: In Sri Lanka, Hindu Tamils felt excluded from government; their language and religion were not recognized. A bloody civil war resulted.

By contrast: In Quebec, minority French speakers have been able to work within the political system.

Years of violence plagued Northern Ireland.

After centuries, Ireland won independence in 1922.

Six counties of Northern Ireland remained part of Britain.

The Catholic minority felt discriminated against.

Majority Protestants rejected Catholic civil rights.

Both sides signed a peace accord known as the **Good Friday Agreement** in 1998. In 2007 a power-sharing government was set up.

Ethnic and religious tensions fueled conflict in Chechnya, a province of the former Soviet republic of Russia.



- Muslim Chechnyans were one of many minority groups in Russia.
- Russian troops invaded, killing many civilians after Chechnya demanded independence.
- Chechnyans responded with terrorist attacks in Moscow and elsewhere.

Other former Soviet republics have had ongoing conflicts.

- Minority Armenians in [Azerbaijan](#) have clashed with majority Azeris in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. When they declared independence fighting broke out.
- In 2008, [Georgia](#) attacked separatists in the region of South Ossetia. Tensions remained high after the conflict.



**Ethnic,
nationalistic,
and religious
tensions tore
apart Yugoslavia
in the 1990s.**

**Before 1991
Yugoslavia was
a **multiethnic**
nation made
up of many
religious, and
ethnic groups.**



- Serbs, Montenegrins, Macedonians were Orthodox Christian.
- Croats and Slovenes were Roman Catholic.
- Bosnians and Albanians were mainly Muslim.

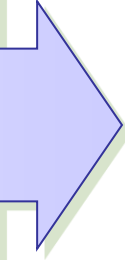
The nation was held together by a communist government.

After the fall of communism, individual regions began to break away, starting with Slovenia and Croatia in 1991.

This led to fighting between Serbs and Croats in Croatia.

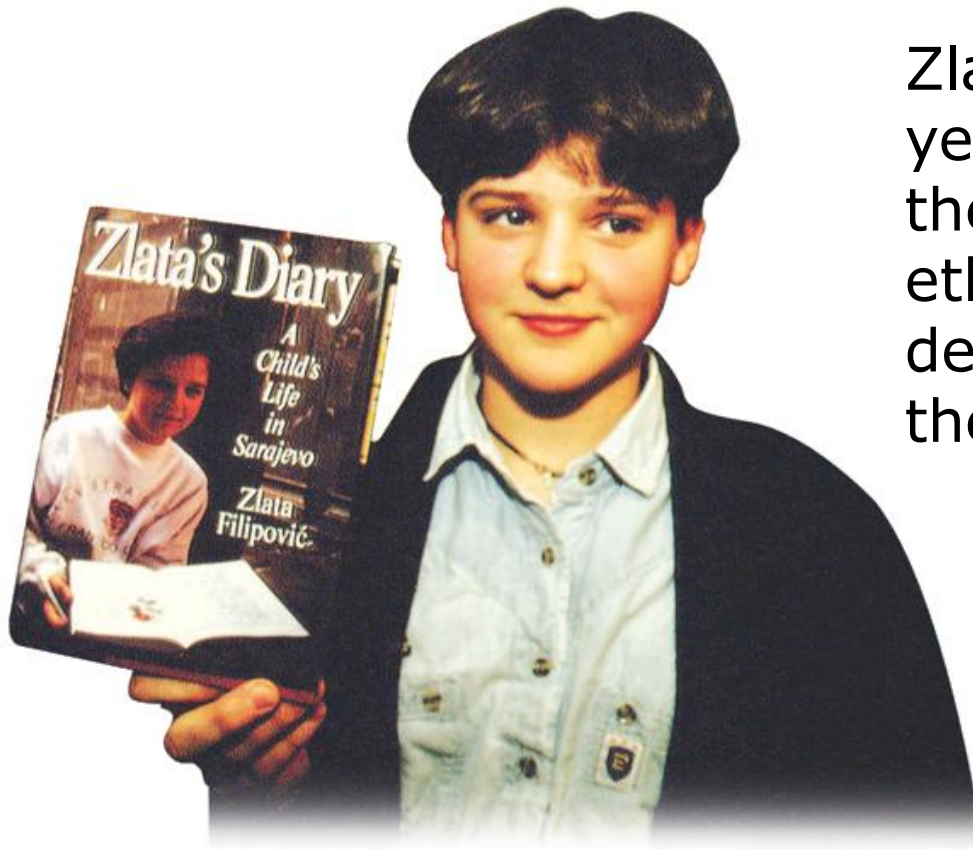
In Bosnia fighting erupted between Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs.

As the fighting spread, Bosnian Serbs were aided and encouraged by **Slobodan Milosevic the Serbian leader.**



- With his aid, Serbs engaged in **ethnic cleansing**, removing or killing Croats and Muslim Bosniaks, to create ethnically “pure” Serbian regions.
- All sides engaged in terrible atrocities.

Finally, NATO air strikes brought negotiations; the U.S. sponsored Dayton Accords ended the war.




Zlata Filipovic was an 11-year old girl who captured the personal horrors of ethnic warfare in a diary describing life in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital.

Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic began oppressing Kosovo Albanians in 1989.



When a small guerilla force of Kosovo Albanians emerged, Milosevic rejected international peace efforts, and increased his ethnic cleansing campaign.



In 1999 NATO launched air strikes at Serbia.

Kosovo moved towards independence.

Kosovo Albanians celebrated independence in 2008.

Serbs protested, believing that Kosovo was a historic part of their country.

A small NATO force remains to keep the peace.

Objectives

- Understand South Africa's struggle for freedom.
- Describe how struggles for independence and Cold War rivalries brought decades of conflict to South Africa's neighbors.
- Analyze how ethnic conflicts killed millions in Rwanda and Sudan.



Terms and People

- **apartheid** – policy of rigid segregation of non-white people in the Republic of South Africa
- **African National Congress (ANC)** – main organization that opposed apartheid and led the struggle for majority rule in South Africa
- **Sharpsville** – a black township in South Africa where the government killed anti-apartheid demonstrators in 1960

Terms and People (continued)

- **Nelson Mandela** – leader of ANC; first president of post-apartheid South Africa
- **Desmond Tutu** – black South African bishop; awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his nonviolent opposition to apartheid
- **F. W. de Klerk** – South African president who officially ended apartheid in 1990
- **Hutus** – the majority ethnic group in Rwanda and Burundi

Terms and People (continued)

- **Tutsis** – minority ethnic group in Rwanda and Burundi
- **Darfur** – region in western Sudan



Why have conflicts plagued some African countries?

National unity was hard to achieve for many African nations. Most included diverse ethnic groups, languages, and religions. At times one ethnic group dominated a nation's government and economy, at the expense of other groups. The Cold War further complicated matters.

As a result, a number of African nations have suffered internal conflicts and civil war.

The struggle for freedom in South Africa was different than elsewhere.



- South Africa gained its independence in 1910.
- In 1948, the existing racial segregation was expanded into the system of **apartheid**.

Under apartheid, a strict set of laws existed.

<p>Everyone was registered by race.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black• White• Colored (mixed ancestry)• Asian
<p>Blacks were treated like foreigners in their own country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Needed permission to travel.• Received low wages and inferior schooling.• Could not own land in most areas.

It was claimed that apartheid allowed each race to develop its own culture.

In reality, blacks were kept uneducated, segregated, and in poverty.

The real purpose of apartheid was to keep control and wealth for the white citizens, who made up just 20 percent of the population.

Opposition to apartheid was led by the African National Congress (ANC).



- The ANC organized peaceful marches, boycotts, and strikes.
- In 1960 police fired on a peaceful protest in **Sharpsville**, killing 69 people.

After Sharpsville, the ANC began armed opposition, leading to a further crackdown by the government.



Nelson Mandela after his release in 1994.

- **Nelson Mandela**, initially a nonviolent ANC leader, was imprisoned. He became a symbol of the struggle against apartheid.
- World opinion turned against apartheid; in 1984 black South African bishop **Desmond Tutu** received the Nobel Peace Prize.

**In 1990 South African president
F. W. de Klerk agreed to end apartheid.**



- In 1994 voting was extended to all groups.
- Mandela was freed and was elected president.
- Mandela peacefully worked with old enemies.
- Expectations were high, but progress towards economic equality has been slow.



Many African nations gained independence without violence. This was not the case in parts of southern Africa, however.

- The apartheid government of South Africa supported minority white regimes in neighboring Zimbabwe and Namibia, creating a struggle.
- Portugal refused to give up its colonies in Angola and Mozambique, leading to armed conflict.

Nationalist movements in Angola and Mozambique turned to guerrilla war; they gained independence in 1975.

Both nations established ties with the Soviet Union, leading South Africa and the U.S. to aid rebel forces.

After decades the war ended and both countries began to rebuild.

Historic resentments and unjust governments fed ethnic violence in several African nations.



One of Africa's deadliest civil wars erupted in the small Central African nation of Rwanda.

Rwanda had two rival groups, the Hutus and the Tutsis.



- Hutus were the majority group, but Tutsis dominated the nation.
- Tensions worsened until 1994 when Hutu officials urged people to murder their Tutsi neighbors.

At least 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered. Millions were left homeless.

With United Nations assistance, Rwanda began to rebuild.



Those responsible for the genocide were tried in the World Court.

At the same time, in neighboring Burundi, similar ethnic divisions also led to civil war.



In Sudan, Muslim Arabs from the north controlled the government.

- They tried to impose Islamic law among non-Muslim groups, and discriminated against those in the south, leading to rebellion.
- Millions have died or been displaced in the north-south conflict.

In 2005 a ceasefire was arranged in the south, but the situation deteriorated in the western province of **Darfur.**



Government-backed Arab militias known as “Janjweed” or “bandits” have destroyed villages, killed civilians, and terrorized local farmers.

By 2009 an estimated 300,000 people in Darfur were killed.

The United Nations and the United States have sent huge amounts of aid, but have been unable to stop the conflict.

In 2009 Sudan's president was charged with crimes against humanity.

Objectives

- Understand why Arabs and Israelis fought over land.
- Explain why civil war ravaged Lebanon.
- Outline Iraq's long history of conflict.



Terms and People

- **occupied territories** – land taken from surrounding nations after their attack on Israel in 1967
- **Yasir Arafat** – leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), which led the struggle against Israel
- **intifadas** – violent uprisings by Palestinians to protest Israeli occupation; began in 1987
- **Yitzhak Rabin** – Israeli prime minister who in 1993 signed the Oslo Accords granting limited self-government to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza

Terms and People (Continued)

- **Jerusalem** – city with sites sacred to Muslims, Jews, and Christians; control of city is a key point of disagreement between Israelis and Palestinians
- **militia** – an armed group of citizen soldiers, such as the Muslims and Christians who fought in Lebanon
- **Saddam Hussein** – Iraqi dictator; launched war against Iran and later Kuwait, was twice defeated by U.S.-led forces; executed for war crimes
- **no-fly zone** – designated areas set up by the United Nations in Iraq to protect Shiites and Kurds by forbidding flights by Iraqi aircraft

Terms and People (Continued)

- **weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)** – nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons
- **insurgents** – rebels who fought to undermine the new Shiite-led government in Iraq



What are the causes of conflict in the Middle East?

The Middle East has vast oil resources, key waterways, and land that is holy to three major world religions.

For decades it has been the focus of conflicts that have a global impact. Disputes over access to oil and waterways, and the conflict between Israelis and Palestinian Arabs have added to tensions.



Modern Israel was established in 1948 by the United Nations Partition Plan.

- This plan was rejected by Palestinian Arabs. Conflicting claims to the land led to repeated violence.
- Israel has fought four major wars with its Arab neighbors.

After the 1967 war, Israel occupied lands taken from hostile Arab nations.

Jordan	The West Bank and East Jerusalem
Egypt	The Sinai and Gaza Strip
Syria	The Golan Heights

After the 1973 Yom Kippur War Israel helped Jewish settlers build homes in the **occupied territories**, further upsetting Palestinians.

For decades the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) led the struggle against Israel.



- The PLO was led by **Yasir Arafat**.
- To gain attention, the PLO employed terrorist tactics such as airplane hijackings and the killing of Israeli athletes during the 1972 Olympic games.

Palestinians resisted Israel by launching the *intifadas* in 1987.

- They demanded an end to Israeli occupation.
- Palestinians stoned and fired on Israelis.
- Suicide bombers blew up buses, stores, and clubs in Israel, killing civilians.

Israel responded by targeting terrorist leaders and bombing Palestinian towns. Many were killed.

Some peace efforts succeeded.

Egypt and Israel signed a peace agreement in 1979, resulting in a return of the Sinai to Egypt.

Yasir Arafat and Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin** signed the Oslo Accords in 1993.

The PLO recognized Israel's right to exist and promised to stop using terrorism, while Israel granted limited self-rule to the West Bank and Gaza.

In 1994 Jordan made peace with Israel.

Syria and Israel, however, failed to reach agreement on the Golan Heights.

**Arafat's successor
Mahmoud Abbas
pledged to stop
attacks, but
violence continued.**



- After 2006 PLO elections, radical Islamist group Hamas seized control of Gaza.
- Israel imposed a blockade on Gaza, while Hamas fired rockets into Israel.
- In 2009 Israeli forces invaded Gaza, resulting in a short destructive war.

Three key obstacles to peace are at the heart of the Israeli-Arab conflict.



- Palestinians demand the “right of return” to land they were forced off decades ago.
- Israel has settlements in the West Bank.
- Palestinians want East Jerusalem to be the capital of a future Palestinian state.

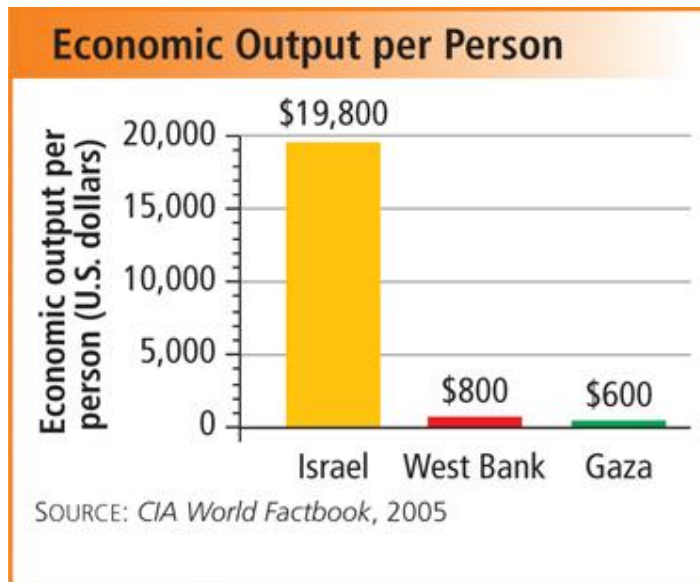


Jerusalem

contains holy sites for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Israelis and Palestinians both want their capitals there.

The Western Wall, a Jewish holy place, and the golden Dome of the Rock, an important Islamic shrine.

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has remained caught in a cycle of actions and reprisals.



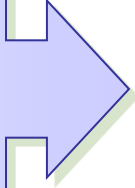
- Radical Islamist groups' refusal to accept Israel's right to exist is one issue.
- Lack of economic development for Palestinians is another issue.

Lebanon is a small multi-ethnic nation just north of Israel. It included Arab Christian sects, who historically held the most power, as well as Sunni and Shiite Muslims and Druze.

Local strongmen with their own **militias** controlled different regions.

The PLO began to launch guerrilla raids on Israel from inside Lebanon in the 1970s.

**Lebanon
was plunged
into civil war
in 1975.**



- Christian and Muslim militias began fighting.
- In 1982, Israel invaded to stop PLO cross-border raids.
- After 16 years a shaky peace was restored.
- U.N. peacekeepers were killed by suicide bombers.

In 2006 a month-long war broke out between Hezbollah and Israel. In 2008 Lebanon reached a power-sharing agreement with Hezbollah.



Iraq included Shiite Arabs, Sunni Arabs, and Kurds.

Although Shiites were in the majority, Sunnis controlled the government. The Kurds sought self-rule.

In 1980, dictator **Saddam Hussein** launched a bloody war against Iran. Millions died. He also used chemical weapons on the Kurds.

In 1991 Iraq invaded neighboring Kuwait.

- Saddam Hussein claimed that Kuwait was Iraqi territory; Kuwait's rich oil fields came under his control.
- The United States led a U.N. invasion, which crushed Iraq's military and freed Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein was permitted to stay in power, but economic sanctions were imposed. **No-fly zones** were set up to protect Shiites and Kurds.

After the 2001 terrorist attacks, the U.S. claimed Iraq had **weapons of mass destruction**, and was supporting terrorists.

In 2003 U.S. led forces invaded Iraq.

Iraq moved towards civil war as **insurgents fought for control after Hussein was toppled.**



- U.S.-led forces fought the insurgency and trained Iraqi troops.
- In 2007 a U.S. troop surge caused violence and death tolls to decline.

The Shiite-led government faced many obstacles, but grew more confident. **They agreed to a withdrawal of all U.S. troops by 2011.**