UNIT 9- QUESTION
What common ideals inspired the anti-colonialist leaders and organizations in their movements for independence and decolonization?

Document #1

The General Assembly, Mindful of the determination proclaimed by the peoples of the world in the Charter of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person . . ., Solemnly proclaims the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms . . . And to this end Declares that:

The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation . . . is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and co-operation. All peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Excerpt from the “Declaration Against Colonialism” adopted by the United Nations in 1960

Document #2

“It is the Africans who carry the Black Man’s Burden. In hewing out for himself a fixed abode in Africa, the man has massacred the African in heaps… What the partial occupation of his soil by the white man has failed to do…what the machine gun and the rifle, the slave gang, labor in the bowels of the earth and the lash, have failed to do; what imported measles, smallpox, and syphilis have failed to do; whatever the overseas slave trade failed to do; the power of modern capitalistic exploitation, assisted by modern engines of destruction, may yet succeed in doing…. The African is really helpless against the material gods of the white man, as embodied in the trinity of imperialism, capitalistic exploitation, and militarism.”

Edward Morel, British Journalist, 1903

an excerpt from “The Black Man’s Burden”, an article written in response to the poem White Man’s Burden

Document #3

I pledge a government dedicated to upholding truth and justice, morality and decency in government, freedom and democracy. I ask our people not to relax, but to maintain more vigilance in this, our moment of triumph. The Motherland can’t thank them enough, yet we all realize that more is required of each of us to achieve a truly just society for our people. This is just the beginning

Corazón Aquino, inauguration speech as leader of The Philippines, Feb. 1986

Document #4

The land is ours. When Europeans came, they kept us back and took our land. The freedom tree can only grow when you pour blood on it.

Jomo Kenyatta, leader of the fight for independence in Kenya, and its first president
**Document #5**

Here I speak of India because it is my country...but also many other countries in Asia tell the same story, for Asia today is resurgent, and these countries, which long lay under foreign yoke, have won back their independence and are fired by a new spirit and strive toward new ideals of democracy. To them, as to us, independence is as vital as the breath they take to sustain life, and colonialism in any form, or anywhere, is abhorrent...

The preservation of peace forms the central aim of India’s policy. It is in the pursuit of this policy that we have chosen the path of non-alignment, not entering into any military pact or alliance...

Through the centuries, India has preached and practiced tolerance and understanding....During these millennia of history, India has experienced both good and ill but throughout her chequered history, she has remember the message of peace and toleration.

Jawaharal Nehru, India’s leader after Gandhi was the first prime minister

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**Document #6**

Independence for the Gold Coast was my aim. It was a colony and I have always regarded colonialism as the policy by which a foreign power binds territories to herself by political ties, with the primary object of promoting her own economic advantage...Thus we have witnessed the greatest awakening ever seen on this earth of suppressed and exploited peoples against the powers that have kept them in subjection. This, without a doubt, if the most significant happening of the twentieth century.

Kwame Nkrumah, leader in the fight for Ghana’s independence

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**Document #7**

“All men are created equal. They are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness”...

The Declaration of the French Revolution made in 1871 on the Rights of Man and Citizen also states: “all Men are born free and with equal rights, and must always remain free and have equal rights.” Those are unalienable truths.

Nevertheless, for more than eighty years, the French imperialists, abusing the standard of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity, have violated our fatherland and oppressed our fellow citizens. They have acted contrary to the ideals of humanity and justice...

For these reasons, we solemnly declare to the world that Vietnam has a right to be a free and independent country- and in fact is so already. The entire Vietnamese people are determined to mobilize all their physical and mental strength, to sacrifice their lives and property in order to safeguard their independence and liberty.

Ho Chi Minh speech from Vietnam “Determined to Fight to the Bitter End”

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**Document #8**

Map of colonial expansion by the nations of Belgium, France, Great Britain, Japan, Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Russia, and the United States. Created by Matthew White ©1997

* to see this map in color visit the link Unit 9- Decolonization on my website