“Last Sunday, three and a half million men and women of Algeria, without distinction of community, in complete equality, gave France and myself their vote of confidence. They did this quite simply without any constraint and in spite of the threats that certain fanatics brought to bear against them, their families and their property. This is a fact, as clear as the bright light of clay. And this fact is fundamental not only because it mutually and forever pledges, one to the other, Algeria and France, but also because it ties in with what happened that same day in Metropolitan France, in the Overseas Departments, in the Territories of the Community.

“The least that can be said of this great demonstration is that the French people proved to themselves and to the entire world their determination for renovation, and that, at the same time, a hundred million men decided to build their future together in Liberty, Equality and Fraternity…

“Therefore, turning toward those who are prolonging a fratricidal conflict, who are organizing lamentable attacks in Metropolitan France, or who are spreading through the chancelleries, through underground dens, by means of the radios and the newspapers of certain foreign capitals-vilifications of France, to those I say: Why kill? We must enable people to live. Why destroy? Our duty is to build. Why hate? We must cooperate.

Stop this absurd fighting and you will at once see a new blossoming of hope over all the land of Algeria. You will see the prisons emptying; you will see the opening up of a future big enough for everybody, and for you yourselves in particular. And then, speaking to those States which are throwing oil on the fire here while their unhappy peoples writhe under dictatorships, I say: Could you do what
France is in a position to do here, what only France is capable of doing? Could you people do it? No. Then let France carry on, unless you deliberately decide to envenom the conflict in order to distract attention from your own difficulties. But in the present state of the world, where can these bitter incitements lead if not to a universal cataclysm? Only two paths lie open to the human race today: war or brotherhood. In Algeria as everywhere, France, for her part, has chosen brotherhood.

“Long live the Republic! Long live Algeria and long live France!”

Charles de Gaulle, 3 October 1958

Context:

Rebellion in Algeria against French rule began in 1954. The long course of the conflict proved decisive in turning Western opinion against their imperial histories. In 1962, French forces ceased wide-scale operations, and Algeria declared its independence.

Source: www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1958degaulle-algeria1.html

Questions:

1. What problems faced newly decolonized and independent states in Africa and Asia?
2. After independence, what was the relationship between the former European “mother countries” and their former colonies?

Assignment:

Create a post-World War II map of global decolonization by European states and show date, type of government left behind, peaceful or violent transitions just prior to or just after independence, and the type of government today.

Bibliography:


