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Unit Four, Section Two: Muslim Lands Fall to Imperialist Demands

The European powers who carved up Africa among themselves also looked elsewhere to see what other lands they could control. The Muslim lands that rimmed the Mediterranean had largely been claimed as a result of Arab and Ottoman conquests. Now the Muslim power in those areas was weakening. Europeans competed with each other to gain control of this strategically important area.

A series of weak rulers destroyed the political unity of the Empire. With this weakening, the economy began to collapse – currency was devalued, unemployment rose, and the different nationalities began to fight both their Turkish masters and each other.

**Desire for Independence**

Different groups began to want independence. These groups included:

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**Europeans Grab Territory**

GEOPOLITICS:

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CRIMEAN WAR:

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In the Muslim lands, the European imperialists gained control by using economic imperialism and creating spheres of influence. Although some governments made attempts at modernization, in most cases it was too little too late. In other areas of the globe, imperialists provided the modernization. India, for example, became a colony that experienced massive change as a result of the occupation of the imperialist British.