Approaches to Decolonization

The French, British, and Belgian Methods
The French Method

• Hold on as much as possible and only relent after years of military struggle
• Maintain cultural ties after granting independence.
• Maintain sense of responsibility afterwards
Case Study: Algeria

- Algerians fought against French from 1954 until 1962
  - Strained relationships
- France is still Algeria’s main trading partner
- French culture remains
  - Used as professional language in Algeria
Case Study: Morocco

• Morocco gained independence in 1956
• France still has very close ties with Morocco
  – French culture remains
  – Moroccans have few barriers to go to French Universities
  – Economic cooperation between the two
Case Study: Mali

• Tuareg Rebellion of 2012
  – Rebels fought against Malinese government in spring of 2012
  – French provided troops and supplies to Mali’s government to put down rebellion
The British Method

• Gradually remove British influence from territory
• Put in place a government that will maintain good relationship with Britain
• Influence politics when it meets British interests
Case Study: South Africa

• Granted dominion status in 1931
  – Full independence in 1961

• Government controlled by White Minority
  – Maintained close ties with Britain
  – Ruled using policy of Apartheid
    • Legal segregation
Case Study: Uganda

- Uganda granted independence in 1962
- British helped the rise of Military dictator Idi Amin
  - British stepped in and attempted to remove him when he went rogue
Belgian Method

• Hold on at all costs
• Use increasingly brutal tactics to maintain control
Case Study: Belgian Congo

- Congo begins push for independence after World War II
- Belgians sent soldiers to protect interests in Congo for as long as possible
  - Rebellion turned into Cold War battle