

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**ROBERT W.
STRAYER:**

Chapter 22, "The End of Empire." For several centuries before 1900, Europeans clearly occupied the leading roles in world history. But in the 20th and early 21st centuries, they have had to share that top billing with peoples of the Global South, in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. Chapter 22 describes some of the ways that the developing countries have asserted themselves in the global arena during this past century.

One of the most important involves the growth and movement of their populations. Human numbers quadrupled during the 20th century. And the Global South accounted for 90% of that increase. Millions of those people migrated to Europe or North America, bringing their skills and their very different cultures to the Global North.

Politically, Asians and Africans broke free of colonial rule and emerged as dozens of newly independent states, radically changing the architecture of world politics. But the conflicts and tragedies of the Global South, as much as its success stories, have accompanied its growing global role. Wars between India and Pakistan, both armed with nuclear weapons; persistent conflict between Israelis and Arabs; civil wars in Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Sudan, Rwanda; AIDs and famine in parts of Africa; continued political oppression, corruption, poverty, and human misery in many places; and the recent uprisings of the Arab Spring.

All of this has marked the emergence of a new and very different world order. However these new global arrangements might be described, they are no longer directed wholly from Europe. And they no longer cast white people in all of the leading roles. This may take some getting used to for all of us.