I. Rise of Arab Nationalism & The Suez Crisis of 1956

A. Aftermath of 1948
1. Arab Leaders blamed for the loss of the 48 War
   a) Syria: 3 military coups in 1949 alone
   b) Jordan: Abdullah assassinated by Palestinian Arabs for not being stronger against Israel and signing a non-aggression agreement with Israel in 1950. Replaced by his son Talal, later overthrown by Hussein.
   c) Egypt: Strong nationalist movement seeking complete independence from Britain. Growth in power of the Muslim Brotherhood.
      (1) Riots lead to a bloodless coup in 1952 by Egyptian military officers.
      (2) Gamel Abdul Nasser ascends to presidency in 1954.

B. Infiltrators and Border Wars.
1. Fedayeen (Someone that sacrifices)
   a) Palestinian guerilla fighters waging attacks against Israeli positions.
2. Almost stopped Israeli border settlements
3. Policy of ‘free-fire’ for anyone that came across the lines.
4. Later a policy of retaliation against villages where infiltrators were believed to be from.
   a) Raid on Qibya, October 12, 1953
      (1) Ariel Sharon & Unit 101
      (2) After a grenade was thrown into an Israeli home and killed a mother and two children
      (3) Revenge raid to achieve ‘maximum killing’
      (4) Explosives into houses, killing over 60 residents and Jordanian soldiers.
      (5) Criticized by UN, USA and Arab World
   b) Policy will change to starting to attack military installations of Jordan/Egyptians. Holding those nations accountable for the infiltrators.

C. Arab Nationalism/Cold War
1. Jordan in the British/American camp
2. Iraq also in treaty relationships with Britain.
a) Hashemite kingdom benefits from relationships with Britain

3. Egyptian revolution begins to change this
   b) Nasser criticized Iraq for ‘selling out’ Arab nationalism

4. Nasser wanted arms
   a) approached the US. Only under terms, allowing American officers in. Nasser rejects on the basis of Arab nationalism
   b) Nasser gets arms through Soviets via Czechoslovakia

5. Egypt and Israeli situation become more hostile.
   a) Israeli ships can not transit through the Suez
   b) Non-recognition.
   c) Palestine should be liberated and the refugees should be allowed to return before the peace process continues.
   d) Egypt would also occasionally shut down the Gulf of Aqaba

6. Lavon Affair, July 1954
   a) Egypt decolonizing, British leaving
   b) This scared Israel. The Egyptians would be less likely to attack if the British are there.
   c) Israel wanted to create a situation where the British would not leave Egypt-make British not feel safe in Egypt.
      (1) Cells to use Bombs in Western/foreigners hang out in Cairo
      (2) People would believe it was the Muslim Brotherhood did it, and therefore foreigners were unsafe, and the Brits would stay to protect them.
      (3) Plan was bungled, Israeli scandal. Lavon takes the fall for it.

7. Tension increases between Egypt and Israelis.

8. Raid on Gaza in February 1955
   a) Fedayeen infiltrates into Israel from Gaza
   b) killed an Israeli bicyclist
   c) Retaliatory raid into Gaza
   d) Egyptian forces/police killed
   e) Nassers starts arming and using the Fedayeen.

9. 1955, Egypt Blockades Straits of Tiran
D. Nasser wants to build Aswan High Dam to dam up the Nile River for Egyptian electrification and control flooding in the Nile Valley. Needs international funding.
   1. US nervous after arms deal and recognition of Communist China.
   2. US Southern states nervous about Egyptian cotton expansion.

E. Ike pulls money.
F. Nasser will get his own money, Nationalized Suez Canal.
G. British NOT happy about this. Military action is planned to seize canal and unseat Nasser.
H. Meanwhile....Algerian war for Independence
   1. French believe Nasser is supporting the Algerians (FLN, National Liberation Front), so they don’t like him either.
   2. France is primary provider of Israeli weapons

3. Israel, GB, France have a convergence of interest to overthrow Nasser.
   a) Sevres Protocol
      (1) French approach Israelis along with the British. Brits are apprehensive because of their relationship with other Arab nations.
      (2) Israelis ultimately provided the Brits with cover to go to war

4. War in October 1956
   a) Plan to unseat Nasser with Israel providing pretext
      (1) Israeli Raids into Sinai against fedayeen incursion
      (2) Britain issues planned ultimatum for Israel and Egypt to withdraw from Suez Positions. Egypt, as expected, refuses.
      (3) Brits and French drop paratroopers under the guise of keeping peace but rather to unseat Nasser

5. Ike admin not happy about this.
6. Soviets look like Champions to the Egyptians (USSR and the USA on the same side!?)
7. US Economic sanctions against Britain.
8. Threaten sanctions against Israel
10. Israelis hold on to chunk of Sinai, blow up highway to slow future Egyptian advances.
11. Ike says to completely leave the Sinai.
12. Golda Mier, Israeli Prime Minister: Israel pulls out, but if the straits are shut down again, it will be an act of war (Causus Belli).

I. Results
1. Changed diplomatic scene in Middle East
2. Nasser became a champion in the Arab world
3. British were undermined for maintaining future security in the ME. Brits become a liability to both Iraq and Jordanians.
   a) Britain and France both weakened, especially in ME dealings.
   b) USA and USSR will replace them as major ME influencers.
4. Radicalization of the conflict
   a) New security doctrine.
   b) US would use military force to prevent a country from being taken over or threatened over the control of international communism.
   c) ‘The vacuum in the Middle East must be filled by the United States before it was filled by the Soviet Union’
6. US insists on withdrawal of Israel from Sinai and the implementation of a United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) along the Egyptian border.
7. Gulf of Aqaba reopened.
8. Egypt and Nasser gained prominence.
   a) Nasser seen as first Arab leader to challenge the West and win.
   b) 1958, Egypt and Syria join to create the United Arab Republic (UAR)
      (1) Seen as threatening by Israel.