

## WINDOWS ON THE WORLD BACKGROUND

### *History*

#### AFRICA

**West Africa** *Colony and protectorate of Nigeria, 1914–54* Northern and Southern Nigeria united in 1914 by British governor. “Indirect rule” by British with local affairs controlled by native chiefs, subject to British review—the hallmark of British rule in Africa. Major uprisings at Abeokuta in 1918 and Aba in 1929, with grave loss of life. Given British mandate for German Cameroon in 1922.

#### AMERICAS

**Latin America** *Mexico* Revolutionary period, after 1911; natural resources nationalized; church property expropriated; great estates broken up; education made secular. Foreign petroleum assets seized and oil industry nationalized, 1938. War declared on Axis, 1942. Peru “Aprista Movement,” founded (1924) by Haya de la Torre; urged unity of Indians, elimination of U.S. interests, planned economy, and nationalization of foreign-owned companies.

**Native North America** The Dawes Act (1887) set stage for Indian policy in the 1900s. Indian reservation land was to be distributed (160 acres to each head of household, 80 acres to each unmarried adult) to create farms. The Act led to a decay of Indian life; tribal social structure was weakened; many nomadic Indians could not adapt to farming; some lost lands to swindlers; and reservation life was marked by poverty and despair. By 1932, two-thirds of the 138 million acres set aside for the Indians under the Dawes Act had been acquired by whites.

#### ASIA

**China** *Republic of China, 1912–49* Warlordism and political strife to 1928; entered World War I, 1917; administrative and territorial integrity guaranteed by Nine-Power Treaty (1922). One of four Great Powers, World War II.

**India** *British Crown, ended 1947* Britain slowly tilted its policy in India toward limited self-rule, with modest reforms in 1909 and 1919, but these steps proved insufficient. After World War I, bitter struggle between British governors and Indian nationalists, led by Gandhi. Burma and Aden separated from India (1937).

**Japan** *Showa period, began 1926* Expansionist state until end of World War II. Defeated Russia (1905); annexed Korea (1910); made 21 demands on China

(1915); awarded former German territories in Pacific after World War I; occupied Manchuria (1931–32); and Shanghai (1932); made war on China (1937–45). Joined Germany and Italy against the United States and the allies in World War II; the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, defeated and occupied by U.S. troops, 1945.

## ***Culture***

### AFRICA

**West Africa** *Colony and protectorate of Nigeria: Decorated Column* This nonsupporting, freestanding post was made by Olowe of Ise (d. 1938), perhaps the most famous Yoruba sculptor in history. Heir to the Yoruban sculptural tradition, he carved an openwork design that depicted a king seated with a senior wife towering over him. The post was displayed at the royal palace in Ikere.

### AMERICAS

**Latin America** *Mexico: The Arsenal or Distribution of Arms* Mexico's Minister of Public Education commissioned Diego Rivera to paint a cycle of wall paintings for the ministry complex in Mexico City. Rivera responded with a program of 117 murals, whose superb execution established him as the leader of the Muralist Movement, the style that made Mexican art known across the world. This mural depicts the theme of giving power to the people, a subject in harmony with the Mexican revolution and Rivera's Marxist beliefs.

**China** *Republic of China: Flying in the Rain* This is a superb illustration of the Kuomintang's official style, which called for a blend of Chinese and Western images. Gao Jianfu's misty landscape evokes traditional Chinese painting and the squadron of planes is a salute to technology. The hard-to-read calligraphy was a distinctive feature of his painting style.

**India** *British Crown: Viceroy House, East Front* Edwin L. Luyten's design for New Delhi's government complex blended traditional Indian and European classical forms. In execution it was a grandiose and majestic image of British hegemony—an ironic assertion as British power was soon to be eclipsed.

**Japan** *Showa period: Sailboat, Morning* A demonstration of Yoshida Hiroshai's understanding of Western painting and watercolors, this woodblock print, one of a series devoted to painting, has artistic effects similar to those of Impressionist painters, as in the shimmering water and the evocative colors indicative of a particular time of day.

