Lesson 1

Student Handout 1.2—Examples and Non-Examples of Nationalism

1. By the 1900s, the feminist movement was encouraging legal and economic gains for women in various parts of the world. Women campaigned to have the right to vote and the right to higher education, as well as equal access to divorce and child custody. Although the movement was peaceful in some countries, in Great Britain Emmeline Pankhurst led a more militant suffrage movement that included several attention-getting disturbances, such as planting bombs, smashing windows, and arson. Pankhurst and many other suffragettes went to prison in the first part of the twentieth century. In 1928, women in Great Britain received the right to vote on the same basis as men.

Emmeline Pankhurst arrested in London in 1914 after demonstrating for women's right to vote


2. From 1899 to 1902, the British and the Boers fought over territory and resources in South Africa. The Boers, descendants of Dutch settlers from the 1600s, distinguished themselves by speaking Afrikaans, a language derived from Dutch. In the early 1850s, the Boers founded the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, two republics in the interior of South Africa. After diamonds were discovered in the Orange Free State in the 1860s, more and more British citizens settled in South Africa. In 1899, the Boers declared war against the British. The war resulted in a loss for the Boers, but it paved the way for British decolonization in South Africa and rule by the Boer minority over the African majority.

3. In 1912 and 1913, the countries of the Balkan peninsula engaged in two wars. During the nineteenth century, when Turkish power in the empire declined, the Balkan countries had won independence from the Ottoman empire. The Slavic people of Serbia, who had gained independence in 1878, wanted to make their country the center of a large Slavic state in alliance with Russia. However, not all Balkan nations were in agreement with Serbia in this matter. In addition, Austria, which had a large Slavic population in the southern part of their empire, did not want Serbia to gain control of the Slavic regions. The two wars resulted in territorial gains for the Balkan countries but did not completely satisfy them. The tension on the Balkan peninsula during these wars was a precursor to the tensions that later sparked World War I.