## **The Bandung Conference**

Background: In 1955, the Bandung Conference in Indonesia gave birth to a new concept of an international cooperative organization: an organization of states that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the United States or the Soviet Union, but sought to remain independent or neutral. **Non-Aligned Movement** (NAM) members sought to "create an independent path in world politics that would not result in member States becoming pawns in the struggles between the major powers." The attendees forged a friendship between Asian and African nations and laid the groundwork for the Non-Aligned Movement. The conference adopted a 10-point "declaration on promotion of world peace and cooperation", called **Dasasila Bandung**.

Source: President Sukarno of Indonesia, Speech at opening of the Bandung Conference, Indonesia, 1955.

We are often told "Colonialism is dead." Let us not be deceived or even soothed by that. I say to you, colonialism is not yet dead...I beg of you do not think of colonialism only in the classic form which we of Indonesia, and our brothers in different parts of Asia and Africa, knew. Colonialism has also its modern dress, in the form of economic control, intellectual control, and actual physical control by a small but alien community within a nation. It is a skillful and determined enemy, and it appears in many guises. It does not give up its loot easily...Not so long ago it was possible to take some little comfort from the idea that the clash, if it came, could perhaps be settled by what were called "conventional weapons "-bombs, tanks, cannon and men. Today that little grain of comfort is denied us for it has been made clear that the weapons of ultimate horror will certainly be used, and the military planning of nations is on that basis. The unconventional has become the conventional

......What can we do? We can do much! We can inject the voice of reason into world affairs. We can mobilise all the spiritual, all the moral, all the political strength of Asia and Africa on the side of peace. Yes, we! We, the peoples of Asia and Africa, 1,400,000,000 strong, far more than half the human population of the world, we can mobilise what I have called the Moral Violence of Nations in favour of peace. We can demonstrate to the minority of the world which lives on the other continents that we, the majority, are for peace, not for war, and that whatever strength we have will always be thrown on to the side of peace.

## 10 points from the Dasasila Bandung, Declaration from the Bandung Conference, 1955

- 1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the charter of the United Nations
- 2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations
- 3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations large and small
- 4. Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country
- 5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself, singly or collectively, in conformity with the charter of the United Nations
- 6. (a) Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defense to serve any particular interests of the big powers
  - (b) Abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries
- 7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country
- 8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties own choice, in conformity with the charter of the United Nations
- 9. Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation
- 10. Respect for justice and international obligations

In 1961, attendees of the first NAM Summit Conference agreed that member nations should support national independence movements and should refrain from entering into agreements with any of the Great Powers in the context of Great Power conflicts (i.e. the Cold War).

## All-African People's Conference

In December 1958, over 300 delegates from 28 African countries gathered in Accra, Ghana to participate in the All-African People's Conference. The delegates were anticolonial nationalist leaders, representatives from political parties, members of labor organizations, and freedom fighters who were working tirelessly to liberate their countries from colonialism. Some delegates came from independent African countries, many of which had only recently achieved an end to colonial rule, including Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.\*

The All-African People's Conference took place during a critical moment in history. Ghana, the host country, had achieved independence just a year earlier in 1957. Reflecting on the end of colonial rule in his country, the Ghanaian Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah announced "the independence of Ghana is meaningless unless it is linked to the total liberation of the African continent."

## All-African People's Conference: Resolution on Imperialism and Colonialism, Accra, December 5-13, 1958

Be it resolved and it is hereby resolved by; the All-African People's Conference meeting in Accra 5th to 13th December, 1958, and comprising over 300 delegates representing over 200 million Africans from all parts of Africa as follows:

- 1. That the All-African People's Conference vehemently condemns colonialism and imperialism in whatever shape or form these evils are perpetuated.
- 2. That the political and economic exploitation of Africans by imperialist Europeans should cease forthwith.
- 3. That the use of African manpower in the nefarious game of power politics by imperialists should be a thing of the past.
- 4. That independent African States should pursue in their international policy principles that will expedite and accelerate the independence and sovereignty of all dependent and colonial African territories.
- 5. That fundamental human rights be extended to all men and women in Africa and that the rights of indigenous Africans to the fullest use of their lands be respected and preserved.
- 6. That universal adult franchise [right to vote] be extended to all persons in Africa regardless of race or sex.
- 7. That independent African states ensure that fundamental human rights and universal adult franchise are fully extended to everyone within their states as an example to imperial nations who abuse and ignore the extension of those rights to Africans.
- 8. That a permanent secretariat of the All-African People's Conference be set up to organize the All-African Conference on a firm basis.
- 9. That a human rights committee of the Conference be formed to examine complaints of abuse of human rights in every part of Africa and to take appropriate steps to ensure the enjoyment of the rights by everyone.
- 10. That the All-African People's Conference in Accra declares its full support to all fighters for freedom in Africa, to all those who resort to peaceful means of non-violence and civil disobedience, as well as to all those who are compelled to retaliate against violence to attain national independence and freedom for the people. Where such retaliation becomes necessary, the Conference condemns all legislation which considers those who fight for their independence and freedom as ordinary criminals.