Unit 7: Struggles for Democracy and Human Rights

Essential Questions:

* What explains the rapid end of the communist era?
* In what different ways did the USSR and China experience communism in the twentieth century?
* How has religious fundamentalism influenced the modern Middle East?
* Why is democracy desired by so many nations? Why is it often difficult to achieve?
* What is the role of the United Nations in promoting democracy?

Textbook: Chap. 19 (598-633) and Chap. 20 (641-646, 653-658)

Know these key terms and their significance:

Democracy

Majority rule, minority rights

Universal suffrage

Literacy rates

Censorship

Apartheid

Nelson Mandela

African National Congress (ANC)

F.W. de Klerk

Tiananmen Square and Tank Man

Berlin Wall

Fall of the Berlin Wall

Lech Walesa and Solidarity in Poland

Mikhail Gorbachev

Glastnost

Perestroika

Human Rights/UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Terrorism

Islamism

Al-Qaeda

“Rivers of rage

Explain:

-Characteristics of strong and weak democracies

-Violations of human rights in Afghanistan, South Africa, and China

-China’s political rights vs. economic rights

-Collapse of communism in Eastern Europe (East Germany, Poland)

-How and why the Soviet Union collapsed

-The success of the Model UN countries and their transition to democracy

-Pay careful attention to the situation in Egypt

-Motivations for Islamic terrorism and Middle East challenges