1. Why does Fanon argue that the decolonization process necessitates violence?

Fanon argues the association amidst violence as it is relevant towards the conflict between the colonized and the colonizer. He articulates that violence has the upper-hand in regards to the colonial age. He expresses his belief that it ultimately disrupted native social forms and influenced the downfall of the systems in the economy (pg. 39). The two populations, since the beginning of their ongoing encounters, despised each other due to one another’s craving for power (pg. 35). There were simple guidelines and tactics when following in colonizer foot steps. Fanon emphasized that, “The first thing which the native learns is to stay in his place, and not go beyond certain limits” (pg. 51). By limits, he expresses not putting themselves in danger. Colonizers came on top as the aggressors, often using weapons and brutal violence to show their dynamism. The Colonized were strong willed and fought back, showing no sign of weakness during the power struggle (pg. 93).

1. Explain the relationship, described by Rodney, between companies that purchased agricultural products and those that manufactured goods.

In many cases, companies that invested in agricultural products were likely the ones manufacturing the goods as well (Rod, pg. 159). Often times in Africa, raw materials, that were exported out of the country, were not equivalent in cost or expense. Economically, this was very unstable, and may have been capitalized on at the time. Is term is often known as “deteriorating terms of trade”. Eventually, prior to the Colonial’s rise to power, only sixty percent of manufactured products could be purchased for an equal amount of primary assets. This became prominent in 1939. Work was a very important factor in development and manufacturing. Poor countries relied on work and because of this they were taken advantage of, know now as slave labor, or with barely any pay. A prime example of this comes out of Uganda. Men and women worked excruciatingly long days and nights in fields with very little, to no reward. After a product was finished, the price of the product inflated significantly. This tactic targeted a very small buyers market.

1. What contributions did precolonial African societies make to European economic and political development? Make sure to consider trans-Atlantic slavery and beyond.

Precolonial African societies made large contributions to Europe’s economic development. Slave trade marked one of the most impactful ways their economy grew. There were a few very important slave trades specifically. It included- The Trans-Saharan slave trade, Atlantic slave trade, The Swahili Coast slave trade, and The Red Sea slave trade. The work was done mainly in the fields. Important products such as cotton, sugar, and tobacco were needed, and in great amounts (pg. 52). As more slaves began working on the plantations, for very minimal pay, higher quantities of produce were shipped to Europe creating larger profit. Great Britain made their case, and slave trade was abolished by 1807. Great Britain found it more beneficial to trade directly with African’s, and those in the African colonies, rather than slavery. The industrial revolution played an incredibly big role to production because of the new advancement of machinery. This was also a reason towards why there wasn’t a production down fall after the abolishment in 1807.

1. How does Ngugi’s *A Grain of Wheat* illustrate the typical and atypical nature of decolonization in Kenya?
2. How did Kenyan independence, as depicted in the novel, relate to decolonization in Ghana, Senegal, and Zimbabwe?
3. In your conclusion, is the role of European colonists significant in all African struggles for independence?

*A Grain of Wheat* examines the encounter with Kenyan Independence. With this we see the emotional, physical, economical, and social conflict these natives endured throughout their attempt to strive for independence. Through those seeking independence with resilience, the “State of Emergency” called for very rigid concentration camps which were used in order to control revolutionaries. These conditions they were put in were horrid and besides brutality and starvation, it often lead to death upon many captured. These camps were spread throughout the region. Innocent members of the community often were the ones tortured because of the rebellious Mau Mau group. In Thabai, a popular town within the region, the British soldiers dug a trench in order to inprison these villagers. There was no way of acquiring food, water, and others resources into the town (Ngugi wa Thiong’o, pg. 156). Many were killed just because of the location they had been in.

It is interesting because similarly, the decolonization of Senegal, Zimbabwe, and Ghana happened exactly as in Kenya. Decolonization revolves around the Army. Those with a more knowledgeable army, with advanced weapons and skill will be successful. The British forces were nearly untouchable and way more advanced at the time. No matter the number of soilders, the British were too advanced and there was no sign of holding back. In the Anderson reading, he explains how confident the British really were; looking down on the African people as nothing, or far less equal than they were.

In my opinion, European colonists played a very significant role in African’s struggle for independence. No matter how strong their revolts were, Europe was ready for it and their involvement in Africa was theirs to keep. They prospered from their raw materials, which ultimately processed into goods that made their economy flourish early on. Africa was under their rule. Although, I believe it really brought together the African people as a whole to fight for what they deserved; Prosperity and Freedom. Eventually, with Europe’s involvement in various countries, Africa soon acquired information about different economies and policies which lead to their new identity which they were able to stand behind with conviction.