

QUESTION : TO WHAT EXTENT WAS THE SUEZ CRISIS A VICTORY FOR THE THIRD WORLD ?

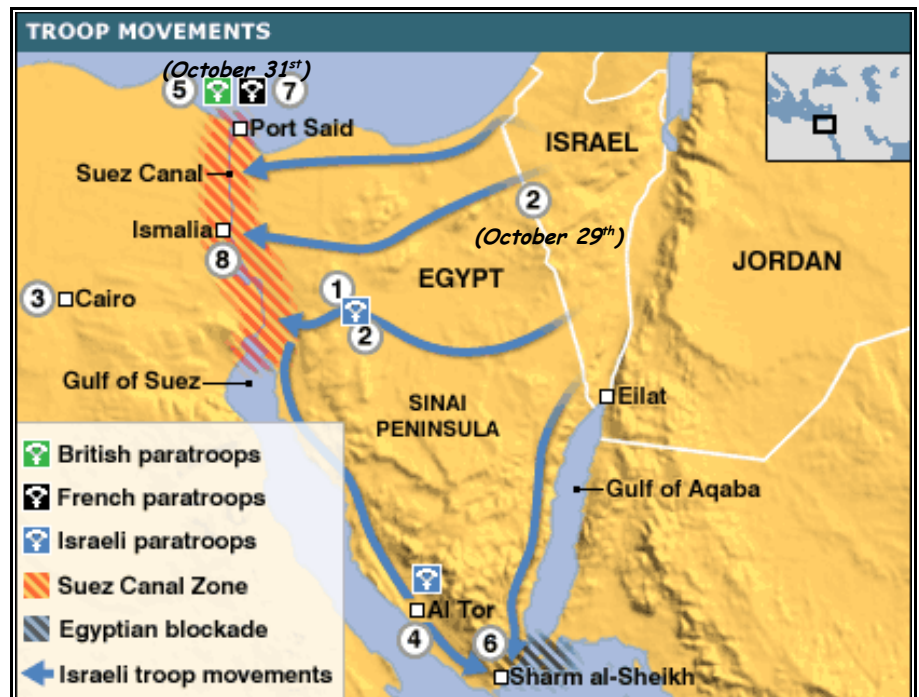
After a very brief presentation of the historical context and of the topics that will structure your presentation, use your knowledge and use the sources to :

- Explain what action by Nasser led to the Suez Crisis in July 1956 ? How can you relate it to the Brioni meeting a week earlier ? (sources 1 & 2)
- Explain how the former colonial powers in the region reacted to Nasser's decision ? (source 3).
- Explain what the consequences for European powers were and why the Suez Crisis was seen as a political victory for Nasser (sources 4a/4b).



Source 1 - Conference held at Brioni (Yugoslavia) on July 19th, 1956

Source 3 - The Suez crisis, July 26th-November 7th, 1956



Source 2 - Nasser's speech, (July 26th, 1956)

« We 'll get our rights back because this money is ours and this canal is the property of Egypt. [...] We shall build the Aswan dam and we'll get back all the rights we've lost. [...] We'll take the 35 million pounds [Egyptian currency] that the Company of the Suez canal cashes every year, we'll take it all in the interest of Egypt. [...] As we could overthrow King Faruk on July 26th 1952, on the same day [on July 26th 1956], we nationalized the Company of the Suez Canal. [...] There shall be no sovereignty over the land of Egypt but the sovereignty of the people of Egypt, one people united on its way towards development and industrialization. [...] We are today free and independent. From now on, Egyptians like you will head the Company of the Suez Canal, Egyptians like you will take possession of its infrastructures, and will manage navigation on the canal, on the land of Egypt. »

Source 4a - Déclaration of US President Eisenhower on Nov.2nd, 1956, after the Anglo-French ultimatum on Egypt. « This situation is the consequence of a mistake (...). We shall never accept the use of force as a wise and appropriate means to settle international disputes. [...] The Government of the United States was neither consulted nor informed in any way on any of the actions undertaken by the French and the British. »

Source 4b - Letter by Marshal Boulganine, President of the Council of ministers of the Soviet Union to Président du Conseil Guy Mollet, and Prime Minister Anthony Eden on November 5th 1956. « I have to declare that the war that France and England have started along with their Israeli allies against Egypt, conveys extremely dangerous consequences for world peace. A large majority of the United Nations member states has asked for an immediate cease-fire and for the withdrawal of all foreign troops. However, military operations in Egypt have spread [...]. The Government of the USSR is resolute to use all the necessary strength to crush the aggressors and bring back peace in the Middle-East.

