Reading Check Questions:

1. How did World War 2 and the Cold War impact the political geography of Africa?
2. Why were western leaders and political analysts so optimistic about Africa’s future during the 50s and 60s?
3. Do you think the Domino theory is correct? Can you think of any contemporary examples of the Domino Theory in action? Do you think the Domino theory can be applied to the destabilization of Africa? Why or why not?
4. Why did South Africa seek to establish a ‘Buffer Zone’ between it and the rest of Africa? What was the result of this attempt? Is establishing a ‘buffer zone’ a good solution to political, social or economic unrest in other regions? Can you think of another time period in history in which this was attempted?
5. Why have African boundaries not changed significantly since the end of colonialism? Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing? (What is Prescott theory about this?) Do you think African boundaries should be changed from those that were established by European colonial powers? Why or why not?
6. After reading this article what you think about Africa’s future?