

Neo-Colonialism around the world - Past and present

R. Sanjeev Srivatsan

PG Department of English, Jain University, Bangalore – 560 001, India.

ABSTRACT

The article presents detailed history of colonialism and how it led to the formation of the most powerful country in the World. At the same time, it led to the deaths of millions and also led to the exploitation of trillions of dollars worth valuable products. Also this compilation suggests as to why China is trying to dominate the world in terms of global economy and military; how that affects the western countries and soon will lead to arch-rivalry between China and the United States. Also, this essay will expose the real faces of the few sailors, who were responsible for the genocide of native people. Finally, a detailed analysis of Neo-colonialism is presented through the example of French's overseas territories and also through China's extension of colonies in the Pacific and their influence in the countries of Africa.

KEYWORDS: Neo-Colonialism, political and social impact, world dominant power.

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I. INTRODUCTION

We are living in the world with 193 officially recognized countries by the United Nations and so far we have not seen any huge global crisis since 1947 until the start of the Coronavirus pandemic and we have no idea when we will return back to normal life. We are all locked up in our houses; put a temporary stop to our jobs which is leading to the fall of the global economy and the United States has faced a lot of major downfall in its economy since 1930. People organized protests to lift lockdown and condemned the death of a person who was killed on the basis of racial discrimination by some government officials. Apparently they let their 'social distancing' lifestyle go away in ashes and USA is in the lead for having a high number of Coronavirus cases, high number of corona deaths and has the highest corona recoveries in the world. They don't seem to move to the second place in the global ranking, do they? There is another huge problem many indigenous people are facing apart from Coronavirus which is Neo-Colonialism. The word "neo" means "new" in Latin and the term "Neo-Colonialism" means "a new form or variety of colonizing people". This article gives a brief account of colonies established by various empires at different times to prove their dominance.

II. HISTORY OF COLONIALISM

In the past 7 or 8 centuries, many empires from Europe have colonized fifty percent of the world and their motive was to expand their colonies, territories and empires and influence the colonized people into their way of living and provide their system of education, employment and clothing. This process was started by taking away the identity and culture of the colonized people and committed genocide of communities that disobeyed the colonizers.

Some empires only wanted to set up more trading points and increase their economy by looking for new lands and establish their trading company but they have stolen a lot of resources for their benefit and made the lands infertile and leave the resources depleted. Some empires wanted to expand their colonies for settlement and they used missionaries to influence the original land owners into their religion, which led them to lose their culture and identity and they were accepted by these colonizers to work for them. Continents like Africa and Asia were targeted only to establish trading points and continents like North America, Latin America and Australia were targeted to become permanent colonies for the Europeans.

The major empires which made a lot of conquests around the world and led the world in achieving history for colonizing mass number of lands were the British, French, Dutch, Belgium, Portuguese, Spanish and the Ottoman empires.

The Portuguese however was the first empire to start the journey of discovery of new lands and there was a competition between the two empires of Spain and Portuguese. Both wanted to reach India because India was enriched with plenty of resources especially spices and paddy. The land route between Europe and Asia was blocked because of the rise of Ottoman Empire and the city of Constantinople (Istanbul) was heavily guarded by the Ottomans. The two empires were forced to find a new route to reach India and Vasco Da Gama, a sailor and

a pirate from Portugal gave an idea that he can succeed by proposing the plan to sail through Africa and reach Calicut (Kozhikode). In Spain, a portuguese navigator named Christopher Columbus served for the Spanish Empire and proposed the idea to reach India through the Atlantic Ocean. Their journey of colonization started in the year 1493 and Vasco Da Gama reached India in the year 1498 and he discovered a new sea route called "The Cape of Good Hope". Christopher Columbus, however, did not make it to India on time but he discovered a new land which eventually was colonized by the Spanish and the British and the land was named after an Italian merchant "Amerigo Vespucci" and later called as America.

When Columbus arrived in America for the first time, he was confused whether he had landed in a tribal part of India and he named those tribal people "Red Indians" because of their Indian colour complexion. After spending a few days on that 'pagan' land, he returned to Spain and gave the sea route to the emperor of Spain. Thus, the conquest of the Americas began and the colonizers committed mass genocide of those indigenous people and exploited the resources. In the Latin American continent, the portuguese traded slaves from Africa in order to gain profit from plantations and minings. Slavery was at its peak during the period of colonization of America.

In the 18th century, the people of the newly formed states in East America began a rebellion and they wanted to gain independence from the British Empire. After 1777, the United States of America was formed with only 13 federated states and George Washington became the first president of this new country. The remaining 37 states were ruled by the Spanish and the British and this newly formed country fought civil wars and claimed those states as theirs. The Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson (third president of the USA) is still one of the greatest American literary and political works ever written because of the structure and the presence of themes regarding freedom, identity, uniqueness and the struggles the leaders underwent.

The 19th century was a very revolutionary period for the United States of America. Many anti-slavery movements were organized and many thought-provoking and influential freedom leaders have emerged in order to stand against racism and slavery in America. After the USA defeated the Spanish and the British, states like Texas, California, Nevada, Dakotas etc., have been federated by the Government and thus joined the new country. Unfortunately, the southern states have not co-operated with the anti-slavery movements and they wanted to continue their plantation and agriculture through slave workers. A great civil war took place around the 1850s and the country was divided into two major lands. The northern states supported the black people and demanded a liberated country whereas the southern states opposed liberation and anti-slavery and they called their land as "The Confederate States of America".

Abraham Lincoln (16th president of the USA) was one of the greatest American presidents in history and he was the leader during the times of great civil war. He abolished slavery and promoted liberalism and he made one of the greatest political statements in human history which is "Democracy is for the people, of the people and by the people".

The United States later became one of the greatest democratic countries in history and a stable government was established after these civil wars and this country became one of the greatest superpowers in the world's history in a few years. The United States has experienced an economic boom in the mid 19th century after discovering oil wells in the largest American state Texas. Crude oil has become their primary source for the country's economic growth and their oil exports led them to earn millions of dollars and in a short period of time, the US dollars became the most valuable currency in the world. The currency value determines the economic power of the country and the U.S. became so rich that they bought a land from Russia and claimed it as their 49th state called the "Alaska" in 1867.

The USA became the world's largest consumer, importing tons and tons of goods and resources from all other countries. They became more powerful than the countries in Europe in terms of economy and military and thus, the "the American dream" became true; people were able to live a rich, affordable life and poverty was far from existing in America. In the 20th century, the country went downhill after their participation in the First World War. The U.S. had to pay a lot of money to compensate for the destruction. And the country underwent a huge famine and drought which led to the starvation of people who were dependent on agriculture, another important source for America's economy. The Great Depression began in 1930, led to the crash of the stock market, losing millions of investors and its impact was reflected outside the country as well.

Meanwhile, the Europe was geared up to face threats from an emerging evil empire in Germany called "The Nazi". The empire has annexed many important countries (Poland, Austria, Hungary, etc.) and posed a huge threat to the countries like France, Britain and USA. The Second World War began in 1939 and it was more deadly and disastrous than the first one. The Imperial Japanese Empire was very dominant in the Pacific Ocean and made America very anxious. The Japanese attacked a port in Hawaii called Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, destroying the Hawaiian ports and the U.S. had to join the war. The war had two combatants, the Allies (Britain, France, USA, etc.) and the Axis powers (Japan, Germany, Italy, etc.).

The Nazi invasion was so insane, that they tried to invade their friendly country which was the USSR (Soviet Union) and Joseph Stalin was the leader during World War 2. This situation made the Soviet Union join the allies and fight against the Nazis and the Japanese invasion posed a threat to British-rule India because of their annexation of Burma (Myanmar).

In the year 1944, the allies entered into the Nazi annexation territories through Italy and Mussolini and his troops were not able to contain it and it brought tension towards Adolf Hitler (the leader of Nazi Germany) and his troops. The allied forces pretty much brought back their territories from the Nazis and the Nazis started to retreat. Hitler committed suicide in his bunker and his troops surrendered without any other options. But, Japan got stronger even after the Nazis surrendered, hence, the United States wanted to end the war by dropping nuclear bombs in Japan's two main cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This disaster was one of the most cruel incidents ever happened in the history of mankind and it led to the deaths of more than two hundred thousand people.

The United States has established an organization called "The United Nations" after the end of world war and their sole purpose is to maintain peace among every country in the world and its existence is one of the reasons we still have not seen any global conflicts. The headquarters of the UN are located in two countries (New York, USA, Geneva and Switzerland). Many people have thought the world will maintain peace and harmony after the reign of the Nazis, Japanese but the Soviet Union condemned America's role of being a global policeman and thus it led to the "Cold War". It was not exactly a war involving weapons but it was a competition between the U.S. and Soviet to see who would dominate the globe. Both countries had a large number of military equipment, arms, and conducted massive number of nuclear tests. USSR denoted the largest nuclear warhead in the history of mankind called the 'Tsar Bomba' which had a blast radius of 100 kilometers as was tested in deep waters of the Arctic Ocean. This cold war between the USA and Soviet Russia created fear among other countries whether a war would spark out of this.

Both Russia and America sent satellites and humans into Space and made achievements in world history, but the USA did something remarkable in 1969. They have sent a crewed spacecraft to the Moon for the first time and made the entire world astonished and made the world feel proud for having Americans on the planet. Yet, things started to get worse after the interference of Cuba in the cold war. Cuba emerged as a powerful communist country because of their country leader Fidel Castro and the country strengthened its arms and defense equipment by having trading relations with Russia. This created a pressure towards America and the U.S. condemned Castro and threatened that they would interfere if he goes on further with his atrocious activities.

Tensions started to get lesser among the USA and the Soviet Union and Russia experienced anti-bommunist movements and it posed a threat to their reign. The USA became the only global superpower after the collapse of the USSR. The Soviet later became "The Russian Federation" and they gave up communism and moved to capitalism. Since the US plays the role of global policeman, they started to interfere in countries that have border dispute problems. The US interfered on the separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan and it strengthened up its partnership with countries like Israel, France, UK, Australia, Canada and the European Union. The US interfered in the civil war that happened in the Middle Eastern countries like Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and apparently Iraq became the first victim of American invasion. Before the rise of some dictators like Saddam Hussein, Iraq was used to be a peaceful country and it maintained diplomatic relations with its neighbouring countries. It is still unclear, why the US Army had to invade Iraq? Some authors suggest that Iraq had tons and tons of oil wells and that may be the reason for the US invasion and they have covered up by coming to rescue the Iraqis from Saddam Hussein. However, Saddam Hussein was one of the most evil and cruel dictators ever lived and he committed mass genocides and invaded Kuwait to expand his territories and this posed a huge threat to the neighbouring countries especially Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia is one of the important allies of the US and the Persian countries consider Saudi as their enemy and a threat to their oil exports. And their alliance with the US brought tension and pressure towards Iran and Iraq. The US had tough times finding Saddam and they have dropped thousands of bombs in Iraq and unfortunately many innocents were only affected by their monstrous attacks. After ten years of hunting, he was captured in 2003 and his reign of terror ended in Iraq. The Iraqi people have celebrated his arrest by vandalizing his status erected in the city of Baghdad. But yet, the US got away from their crimes and sins they have committed in the ten years of their conquest and they have their part too in these war crimes.

The economic growth of America after these wars are drenched in the blood of the innocents they have killed and not apologized for their war crimes, unlike the Japanese for their invasion over China and other Asian Countries.

America after this particular date has moved into a new different time. September 11, 2001 was supposed to be a normal day until the crash of two planes into America's important building construction called "The Twin Towers" (World Trade Center) and around 3000 people died that day and it was a terrorist attack

committed by a extremist groups from Iraq and Afghanistan. The emergence of Islamophobia posed threat and tensions towards innocent muslim people and many of them were bullied and murdered mysteriously.

Meanwhile, the world dominance of the US has started to decrease because of the rise of China. China is in the leading position for the highest exports in the world and about 50% of the goods and products of America are shipped (arrived) from China. This shows that the US needs China more than itself. However, China has a communist government and has many hidden propagandas which bothers and affects the trading relationship with its neighbouring countries like India, South Korea and Japan etc.

Many conspiracies claim that the Chinese have made this “Coronavirus” to obliterate the World Economy and want to become the dominant power but this still has not been proved. But, we can see the dominance of China through their promotion of Neo-Colonialism in the countries of Africa, Latin America and Pacific Island Countries. There is an island country called Vanuatu which was a French colony once and it got independence in the 1980s. Recently, the Chinese government established their military base on that island and they got the approval of Vanuatu’s government by providing the products which they lack. The process of colonization also worked in the same way. By anytime, the island country would become a part of China just like Tibet, Taiwan and Hong Kong which were separate countries before.

Taiwan actually, had recognition of the United Nation but they got kicked out since, the Chinese were one of the permanent members of the UN and they claimed Taiwan as a part of their republic. The Chinese Governments approaches towards any world problems are tactical and people should be aware of their actions because they are becoming an example for the process of Neo-Colonialism. Honestly if you ask me, I do not hold any grudge against the people of China, but, I really despise their current communist government propaganda. To understand why China has a despicable impression across the world, we have to go back to the times when it was a land that was always a victim of foreign invaders.

Genghis Khan, one of the greatest as well as one of the controversial emperors in the World was from Mongolia and he conquered almost half of Asia and then he killed thousands of people in the land of China and abducted women and children from China and sexually assaulted them. Once the Mongol Empire collapsed, the Chinese became really weak because they experienced most of the damages caused by the Mongolian Empire. India and China have this one thing in common when talking about their history. They never invaded anyone but every other empire has always invaded them many times.

This is the reason China wanted to change their history by becoming a dominant and powerful country in the World but they chose the ideology of Communism which apparently led them to become a fascist country. Ever since China became a permanent member of the UN, they became unstoppable. Their tremendous growth in the economy made America fear whether they would face a competition in World dominance. They helped countries in Africa, the Pacific and their autonomous territories like Tibet, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan by exporting their products, uplifted the poor societies and provided education and housing to the people that cannot afford it. Right now, Africa and China have a strong bond and this affects the growth of America and their impression towards the people of Africa.

China recently established their largest military base in the South China Sea, which is an important water body for three countries Malaysia, Philippines and Japan. The government of the Philippines strongly condemned China’s actions but that did not stop them. The Chinese military conducted some missile tests there which spooked those three countries and even made India intrigued about their technology. But, China is nothing when compared to modern French in terms of owning territories because the French has the most number of overseas territories across the world and who knows they might even own some place on Mars too.

The French invaded a lot of countries especially in the Caribbean and in the Pacific. Around 60% of their territories gained independence but, now the role of Neo-Colonialism plays here. The French may have just left the land but the establishment of French-styled schools and jobs are being followed in those independent lands. (eg. Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso in West Africa) and the younger generation of those countries will be able to migrate to France without Visa. In India, we can take Pondicherry for example. It’s officially a part of India yet many French people still live there and a person born in Pondicherry does not need a visa to visit France.

Few days ago, I watched a documentary about this Pacific Island called “New Caledonia” which is identified as a part of France and recently many indigenous people of that Island are demanding independence from France and the referendum for independence happened two times. In both the times, many people voted to remain in France instead of getting independent.

And the reason why they vote to remain with France? They said the French government is providing basic amendments for the people living in poverty and they are richer than their neighbouring countries Fiji, Vanuatu, etc., and their island is enriched with nickel mines.

Now, these people should realize that they could use those nickel mines for their own development by establishing a strong and self-reliant government instead of letting France help them and apparently they take advantage of their mines.

III. CONCLUSION

We are living in a world where people will do anything for money and power. Therefore, the primary factor for the existence of Neo-Colonialism is persuasion of the colonized people through money by the colonizers. The only difference between the old colonization and neo-colonialism was,

“Back then, the colonizers traded culture and religion to colonize people literally.
Now, the same colonizers trade education and money to colonize people’s minds.”

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