

New imperialism, decolonisation & neocolonialism: a brief guide

Why the New Imperialism?

1. Technology:
 - medicine
 - steamships, telegraph, railways
 - gunboat, maxim gun front loading rifle
2. Economic factors
 - need for raw materials
 - solve growing populations
 - surplus capital
3. Prestige
4. Strategic Reasons
 - UK routes to east(=Egypt, Sudan,East Africa)
 - USA Panama (HL Big Stick)
 - UK islands as naval bases
5. Religious & Humanitarian reasons
 - Stanley, Livingstone in Africa
 - Missionaries worldwide

Impact of Imperialism

Examples: Kenya, IndoChina

1. Spread of European Culture
 - = elimination of native culture
2. New types of political organisation are set up
 - new frontiers
 - no natural unity or concept of a nation
3. Positive benefits
 - schools, clinics, roads, railways, aid programmes, cities & towns
 - colonies cost mother nations more than immediate gain
4. Insertion into world economy
 - colony = source of raw materials & market cash crops introduced.
 - a) This ends native self sufficiency
 - b) Through use of taxes forces natives on to plantations. Need to keep working to earn, pay taxes and buy food now

Decolonisation, post 1945

Why?

1. Increased colonial nationalism
 - a) ed elites absorb Eur ideas of liberty + Marxism seeing colonial powers as "capitalists", colonies as "proletariat" face Europeans as europeans, not as natives (Ho, Kenyatta)
 - b) Impact of World wars
 - taught idea of self determination
 - fought for Euros now want a reward
 - Japan had shown Eurs were not invincible
2. International opposition
 - a) Post WW2 saw Empires as oppressive USA esp saw them as this
 - b) UN resistance:
 - 1960:
 - 1965
3. Superpower Pressure on Imperialists
 - USSR always anti imperialists
 - USA increasingly ant colonies
4. It suited colonial powers to give up colonies
 - a) postwar (socialist) Eur govts = less keen on imperialism as it is perceived as being racist
 - b) colonies cost money to maintain. money needed in Europe to rebuild after WW2
 - c) Imperialists had new focus post 1945: European unity. Energy now went here.
5. In reality never really give up control
 -neocolonialism

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Neocolonialism = virtual colonialism

Examples:

Cuba 1900-1954

Vietnam 1945- (Where it does not succeed)

How done:

1. Cultural ties with old mother country

language, cultural links, Sports,

2. Political ties

UK Commonwealth

France: Union Francaise

3. Military

Cuba: Guantanamo US base

UK bases in ex colonies (Cyprus, Canada, Australia)

Pacts with ex colonies to support govts (mainly done by France in Africa)

4. Use of Aid

Links aid with conformity to policies

5. Economic Ties

a) cash crop economies

b) multinational influence

c) Role of European Community (EC)

1963 Yaonde - Eur Dev Fund

Lome I and II 1975, 1980

These tie in old colonies into EC economies as in imperial past and prevent them changing their economic base as Korea, Malaysia etc

Resistance

1. Joint Action

Bandung 1955

UNCTAD

OPEC

2. Non aligned movement

Peron, Bandung, Castro

Problems:

largely ignored by 1st world

not fully supported by its members

members are unstable=lack of consistent approaches

Conclusion

For most old (non white) colonies neocolonialism has replaced imperialism. Few countries have broken the process:

Only Two:

Vietnam

Cuba

Neither is able though to prosper by 1990 outside the world economy dominated by the ex colonial powers.

casahistoria pages for further study:

- [Imperialism home](#)
- [Indo China](#)
- [Vietnam War](#)
- [Cuba](#)
- [Malvinas/Falklands](#)
- [Ireland](#)