

Anthropology 1

Political Systems:
The Modern/Colonial/Capitalist
World System

Modern World System

- Kottak
 - A system defined by the economic and political interdependence of the nations of the world.

When did the Modern World System emerge?

- Prior to the existence of nation-states
- 15th-16th century expeditions from W. Europe to Asia, Africa and the ' New World' .
- Extraction of gold, silver and other resources...
 - shipment of riches back to Europe.
- Forced labor
 - enslaved Africans and Native Americans
 - indentured servitude

When did the Modern World System emerge?

- Trans-Atlantic slave trade
- Plantation economies
 - mono-crop production
 - Sugar
 - Cotton
- International markets emerge for products

Capitalist World Economy

- Single world system committed to production for sale or exchange, with the object of maximizing profits rather than supplying domestic needs.

Metropolises and Colonies

- Metropole or Metropolitan State
 - State that politically controls a geographically-distant territory
- Colony
 - Territory under the immediate political control of a geographically-distant state

Colonialism

- Domination by a distant sovereign state over the resources, labor and market of another territory.
- May impose socio-cultural, religious and linguistic dominance.
- Based on the belief that the values, norms and beliefs of the colonizer is superior to those of the colonized (linked to ethnocentrism and racism)

4 Types of Colonies

- Settler
- Dependencies
- Large Scale Colonial Settlement in Pre-populated Areas
- Plantation Colonies

Settler

- Emigration of people from a metropole
- Involved the displacement of native populations

Dependencies

- Colonizers arrived not as emigrants but foremost as administrators over native populations and access/control of resources.

Large Scale Colonial Settlement in Pre-populated Areas

- Resulting in either 'mestizo' mixed societies or racially divided societies.

Plantation Colonies

- White colonizers imported black slaves who began to outnumber the whites
– minority rule similar to dependencies.

Effects of colonialism

- Political
- Economic
- Social
- Cultural
- The colonies were transformed but so were the metropolises.

Industrialization

- The development of industry on a grand scale
 - happened first in the metropolises.
- After industrialization, colonies consumed staples from 'Mother' country/metropole.

From Colony to Independence

- India
 - United Kingdom
 - 1858-1947
- Taiwan
 - Japan
 - 1895-1945
- Philippines
 - United States
 - 1898-1946

De-Colonization

- Independence by a number of western colonies and protectorates in Asia following World War II
 - especially during 1945-1968

Modern World System

- A system defined by the economic and political interdependence of the nations of the world
- Though today does not have the same colonial relations of past, arguably there is greater economic and political interdependence of nations

Core, Semiperiphery & Periphery

- Core
 - the dominant economic and political position in the world system
- Semiperiphery
 - Intermediate position
 - Industrializing
 - lack power and economic dominance of core nations.
- Periphery
 - Produce raw materials
 - supply cheap labor, agricultural commodities
 - export cheap labor
 - may lack technology
 - may have weak governments;

Dependency theory

- Periphery countries are dependent upon more developed countries
- Exploitation of periphery countries may be what maintains the dominance of the core countries

Modern/Colonial/Capitalist World System

- Explicitly names capitalism as the dominant economic system of the world system.
- Contemporary links between specific colonial era Core and Periphery relations still maintained today.
- New Core and Periphery relations mimic colonial era relations.

Modern Colonial/Capitalist World System

- Beyond political and economic dominance,
 - emphasizes cultural dominance
- Continued maintenance at home of colonial racial-ethnic hierarchy

Modern Colonial/Capitalist World System

- Historical colonial 'centers' are the choice of destination for much current migration
 - ex. France, England
- The racial-ethnic hierarchies that migrants are placed into today extend from colonial structures of inequality

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