

**Learning How to be
Anti-Racist: Special Topics
Colonization & Decolonization
11/11/20**

Slides and materials from the discussion held on 11/11/20

The most common mistake people make when they talk about racism is to think it is a collection of prejudices and individual acts of discrimination. They do not see that it is a system, a web of interlocking, reinforcing institutions: economic, military, legal, educational, religious, and cultural. As a system, racism affects every aspect of life in a country.

–Elizabeth Martinez

COLONIALISM

By Devyn Springer

- A system of land occupation and theft, labor exploitation, and/or resource dependency that is to blame for much of our modern concepts of racialization.
- An act of dominance in which a forceful state overtakes a “weaker” state; this means that colonization is the act of forcefully stripping sovereignty of a country through acquisition of land, resources, raw material, and governmental structures.

COLONIALISM

By Devyn Springer

Systems of colonialism are based in notions of racial inferiority, as they perpetuate white/European domination over non-white colonial subjects.

Source: [Wear Your Voice Magazine, Words Mean Things: Understanding Colonialism](#)

COLONIALISM

By Aimé Césaire

“Between colonizer and colonized there is room only for forced labor, intimidation, pressure, the police, taxation, theft, rape, compulsory crops, contempt, mistrust, arrogance, self-complacency, swinishness, brainless elites, degraded masses. No human contact, but relations of domination and submission which turn the colonizing man into a class-room monitor, an army sergeant, a prison guard, a slave driver, and the indigenous man into an instrument of production.”

Source: [Discourse on Colonialism](#)

PRIMITIVE ACCUMULATION

By Karl Marx

*Money is changed into capital.
Through capital, surplus-value is made.
From such surplus-value, more capital.*

Primitive Accumulation precedes capitalistic accumulation. It is not the result of the capitalist mode of production, but its starting point.

It involves dispossessing people from their land, ways of life, and economics, and relocating and repositioning them as wage laborers in relation to capital.

Source: [The Secret of Primitive Accumulation](#)

EXPLOITATION COLONIALISM

By Laura Hurwitz & Shawn Bourque

Involves a small amount of colonists whose main objective is to profit from the colonies resources and exploit Indigenous labor, usual exported to the metropole or “mother city” (think British in India).

SETTLER COLONIALISM

By Laura Hurwitz & Shawn Bourque

Land, not labor is key. In this system, Indigenous Peoples are literally replaced by settlers.

Settlers = those who directly stole and settled land, as well as those forcibly brought to the land

RACIALIZATION

By Laura Hurwitz & Shawn Bourque

Different groups are racialized in different ways according to the needs of the settler society.

- One drop rule
- Blood quantum

“Racialization represents a response to the crisis occasioned when colonizers are threatened to share social space with the colonized.”

- Patrick Wolfe

PLANTATION COLONIALISM

By Laura Hurwitz & Shawn Bourque

Utilizes a mix of exploitation and settler colonialism
in different regions and areas

NEO-COLONIALISM

By Kwame Nkrumah

Used to describe the ways that powerful, typically Western states impose *indirect* domination on *former* colony states.

NEO-COLONIALISM

By Kwame Nkrumah

“The State which is subject to it is, in theory, independent and has all the outward trappings of international sovereignty. In reality its economic system and thus its political policy is directed from outside.”

NEO-COLONIALISM

What it Looks Like

By Kwame Nkrumah

- Trade agreements
- International banking systems
- International development institutions
- Foreign aid debt

The “worst form” of imperialism, because it allows for the neo-colonizing state to have “power without responsibility,” and no need to justify its control of a foreign country because it is indirect.

AGRO-COLONIALISM

By Devlin Kuyek

The process by which international development institutions foster landgrabs for multinational corporations, which then exert immense power and control over agricultural production of a nation.

Source: [*The 'Brazil of Africa', by Zahra Moloo*](#)

AGRO-COLONIALISM

What it Looks Like

By Devlin Kuyek

- Mineral mining
- Raw material harvesting
- Farming
- Land/livestock cultivation
- Deforestation (leading to desertification, landslides, increases in greenhouse gases, flooding)

The colonization of land and subsequent exploitation of labor is done through multinational corporations rather than military power.

Source: [The 'Brazil of Africa', by Zahra Moloo](#)

“Climate is inextricably linked to colonialism.”

- Holly A.

GREEN-COLONIALISM

By Devyn Springer

Wherein foreign governments use the language of “nature preservation” and “animal conservation” to foster control and influence over land in former colonies.

Source: [Wear Your Voice Magazine, Words Mean Things: Understanding Colonialism](#)

DECOLONIZATION

- Can mean different things for different people
- Literal, metaphorical, and everything in between

DECOLONIZATION

“The ending of colonialism and the liberation of the colonized. This requires the dismantling of the colonial government and its entire social system upon which control & exploitation are based. Decolonization, then, is a revolutionary struggle aimed at transforming the entire social system and reestablishing the sovereignty of tribal peoples. In political terms, this means a radical de-centralization of national power (i.e., the dismantling of the nation-state) and the establishment of local autonomy (community & region, traditionally the village and tribal nation).”

- Zig-Zag

Source: [Colonization and Decolonization](#)

DECOLONIZATION

“Decolonization is always a violent event.”

- Frantz Fanon

DECOLONIZATION

“The state will call anything that challenges it violent.

No violence compares to the global, centuries-long violence of imperialism, colonialism, capitalism, and anti-Blackness.

There is honor in challenging the state.”

- Jordan N. DeLoach

DECOLONIZATION

“Decolonization is not a general term for anti-racism; it involves the removal of colonizers’ control over land, resources, bodies, and minds.”

- Janani Balasubramanian

Source: [What Do We Mean When We Say Colonized?](#)

decolonized beauty
is dark skin,
fat bodies, and
features that
threaten whiteness

@ Q T P O C M E N T A L H E A L T H

DECOLONIZATION

“The easy adoption of decolonization as a metaphor (and nothing else)... is a premature attempt at reconciliation. The absorption of decolonization by settler social justice frameworks is one way the settler, disturbed by her own settler status, tries to escape or contain the unbearable searchlight of complicity, of having harmed others just by being ones’s self. The desire to reconcile is just as relentless as the desire to disappear the Native; it is a desire to not have to deal with this (Indian) problem anymore.”

- Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang

Source: [*Decolonization is not a Metaphor*](#)

DECOLONIZATION

“The ending of colonialism and the liberation of the colonized. In order to be liberated from the oppressive state, the process of colonization must be reversed – beginning with the mental aspects and moving towards the physical. While decolonization can be an act of cultural revitalization, it also requires the dismantling of the colonial government and the entire social system upon which control and exploitation are based.

- Unsettling Minnesota

Source: [Unsettling Ourselves](#)

DECOLONIZATION

“As an event decolonization concerns reaching a critical level of consciousness, an active understanding that you are (or have been) colonized and are thus responding to life’s circumstances in ways that are limited, destructive, and externally controlled.”

DECOLONIZATION

As a process... it means restoring cultural practices, thinking, beliefs, and values that were taken away or abandoned but are still relevant and necessary to survival; and it means the birthing of new ideas, thinking, technologies, and lifestyles that contribute to the advancement and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples.”

- Michael Yellowbird

Source: [Decolonizing Our Minds and Actions](#)

DECOLONIZATION

“The process of breaking your identity with and loyalty to this culture – industrial capitalism, and more broadly civilization – and remembering your identification with and loyalty to the real physical world, including the land where you live. It means reexamining premises and stories the dominant culture handed down to you. It means seeing the harm the dominant culture does to other cultures, and to the planet. If you are a member of settler society, it means recognizing that you are living on stolen land and it means working to return that land to the humans whose blood has forever mixed with the soil.”

- Derrick Jensen

DECOLONIZATION

“A term used to describe the praxes of Indigenous Peoples reclaiming land, sovereignty, and self-determination, which can also be used at times to describe and re-shape the legacy of colonialism within our epistemology, institutions, and structures.”

- Devyn Springer

DECOLONIZATION

“In terms of historical context, ‘decolonization’ is most commonly used to refer to the transition from a world of colonial empires to a world of nation-states in the years following World War II.

It seems to imply that it is possible to remove/ separate the colonial elements from an Indigenous land & population. We know that even in nations where the colonizer ‘left’ (India, Viet Nam, Ghana, etc.), true decolonization – a return to pre-colonial society and culture – cannot actually happen.

Decolonization is a process, not a product.

The journey is the prize.”

- Dr. Deborah Miranda

INDIGENIZING

“It may be more helpful to think of decolonization as a kind of Indigenizing.

Indigenization is the addition or re-establishment of Indigenous elements. Indigenization moves beyond tokenistic gestures of recognition or inclusion to meaningfully changed practices and structures. Power, dominance and control are rebalanced and returned to Indigenous peoples, and Indigenous ways of knowing and doing are perceived, presented, and practiced as (at least) equal to Western ways of knowing and doing. In some cases, as with wildfire management (for example), Indigenous ways of knowing may be more appropriate than Western ways of knowing.”

- Dr. Deborah Miranda

The misuse of “colonized” and “decolonized”

By Janani Balasubramanin

- Not all people of color were/are colonized. This is not to say that POC whose peoples were never formally colonized are not affected by colonialism; as a product of trade/labor routes, and the ways that our origins are homogenized, we definitely experience racism that isn't necessarily specific to our histories.
- Colonization and decolonization are not individual practices, rather structural oppression/actions.

The misuse of “colonized” and “decolonized”

By Janani Balasubramanin

- In the US, we are in the belly of the imperialist beast... Decolonization is not something that happens divorced of the US removing itself from its colonies and imperialist control of other nations' resources.
- Colonized peoples can also colonize. India, for example, is a formerly colonized nation currently occupying Kashmir, and trading billions in weapons with Israel.

The misuse of “colonized” and “decolonized”

By Janani Balasubramanin

- Not all racism comes about through colonialism. Race is brought into being also by labor relations, migration patterns, war, enslavement, etc. None of these processes is totally separate from colonialism, but it's important to hold their specificity.

Source: [What Do We Mean When We Say Colonized?](#)

Coping with your Settler Status

By Albert Memmi

- **Self-Accepting Colonizer** – (consciously or unconsciously) consent to their role as a colonizer and seeks to legitimize colonization

Source: [The Colonizer and the Colonized](#)

Coping with your Settler Status

By Albert Memmi

- **Self-Rejecting Colonizer** – refuses colonization and its injustices by
 - A) Withdrawing physically from those conditions
 - B) Remaining to fight and change them

Source: [The Colonizer and the Colonized](#)

Coping with your Settler Status

By Albert Memmi

Those that stay and fight live a life of torment and contradictions, simultaneously benefiting from and fighting against colonialism and not fully apart of the colonizer or the colonized society. They fight for a world they have not place in, possibly helping to create a society which might not match up with their politics.

Source: [The Colonizer and the Colonized](#)

Coping with your Settler Status

“Because every bit of land and every natural resource claimed by the United States was taken at Indigenous expense, anyone who occupies that land and benefits from our resources is experiencing colonial privilege.”

- Waziyatawin

Source: [Understanding Colonizer Status](#)

Coping with your Settler Status

“In a settler society, just maintaining the status quo makes one a self-accepting settler.”

- Laura Hurwitz & Shawn Bourque

ALLYSHIP

(remember that “Ally” is a verb)

- Being an ally does not mean signing up for Indigenous spirituality.
- This is not a struggle for those people who believe it's trendy to support Indigenous causes – we are in it for the long haul.
- You can find Indigenous individuals who will support any position you want them to support – that is a direct result of the colonial experience.
- Because this is a political struggle, it is essential to work in solidarity with critically minded and politically engaged Indigenous individuals.
- Remember that decolonization is a process for both the colonizer and the colonized.

ALLYSHIP

(remember that “Ally” is a verb)

“Allies actively seek to interrupt and dismantle oppression in all its forms, even when doing so could jeopardize one’s own position of relative comfort and security.”

- Unsettling Minnesota

colonized minds

hear

“ours”

and think of

possession

decolonizing minds

hear

“ours”

and feel

connection

- josie valadez fraire

ETHICAL TRAVEL

- **How are you spending money?**
 - Lodgings
 - Souvenirs
 - Tour guides
 - Travel agencies
 - Bartering

ETHICAL TRAVEL

- **Be aware of how you fit into the location and its history**
 - Privileges – skin, passport, class, etc.
 - The role of colonization
 - Should you even be there?
 - Are you spectating or participating (and were you invited to do so?)

ETHICAL TRAVEL

- **Don't be rude**
 - Be aware of WHO and WHAT you are taking photos of
 - Respect and honor local customs

ETHICAL TRAVEL

Additional Resources

- [The Definition of a Basic B*tch](#)
 - One of my favorite travel bloggers.
(Content note: Contains explicit language)
- [Is Bartering on the Road Ethical?](#)
- [What are You Really Bargaining for? The Harsh Side to Haggling Abroad](#)
- [Questions Every Anti-Racist Traveler Should Ask on a Trip](#)

Happy
Veteran's
Day

**THANKSGIVING IS A TIME TO REMEMBER ALL
THE THINGS WE HAVE...**

**AND THE GENOCIDE THAT
IT TOOK TO GET IT...**

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

- Observed every 4th Thursday of November
- Established in 1970 by United American Indians of New England (UAINE)
- A reminder of the democide and continued suffering of the Native American peoples

“Historically, Thanksgiving represents our first encounter with the eventual erosion of our sovereignty and there is nothing wrong with mourning that loss... It’s healthy to mourn. It is a necessary part of the healing process.”

- Chief Qaqeemasq, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

THANKSGIVING

- Consider how your celebrations honor Indigenous Peoples
 - And if they don't, find a way to do so
- Discard the whitewashed “pilgrims and Indians” narrative
- Focus on values – togetherness, generosity, gratitude (instead of being grateful for things, think about how someone has helped you)
- Make it about the food

Instead of Thanksgiving...

- November 26 – National Cake Day
- National Farm-City Week
- National Bible Week
- National Game and Puzzle Week
- Better Conversation Week
- National [????] Month

ACTION ITEM #1

Attend

[Policing in America:
A Panel Discussion](#)

December 3, 2020

4:00PM PT

ACTION ITEM #2

Re-think your Thanksgiving celebrations.

COMING UP

***Learning How to be Anti-Racist: Special Topics -
Policing and Incarceration in the United States***

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

6:00PM – 8:00PM PT

Homework: Watch -

13th, If Beale Street Could Talk, When They See Us

COLONIZATION & DECOLONIZATION

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Science/ Environment

[Decolonizing Science Reading List](#)

[Science that Unsettles](#)

[Decolonize All The Science](#)

[D.A.T.S. Scientific Ethics Statement & Reading Guide](#)

[The Lasting, Racist Legacy of Colonialism on the Environment](#)

[A Killing in Congo Reveals Human Cost of Conservation](#)

Thanksgiving

[The Thanksgiving Tale We Tell is a Harmful Lie.](#)

[The Iroquois Thanksgiving Address](#)

Puvungna

[Native American sacred land on CSULB campus should be permanently protected](#)

[Protecting Puvungna from CSULB: The Ongoing Fight to Save a Sacred Site](#)

[Tribe gets state support for CSULB to clean up sacred land](#)

COLONIZATION & DECOLONIZATION

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

United States/ California/ Puerto Rico

[Native Land Map](#)

[Writer and professor Deborah Miranda explores 15 steps for decolonization for Californian Indigenous communities](#)

[U.S. Territories: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver](#)

(content note: contains explicit language and adult content)

[How statehood is granted to U.S. territories, explained](#)

[Washington D.C. Statehood: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver](#)

(content note: contains explicit language and adult content)

[The Past, Present, and \(Potential\) Future of D.C. Statehood, Explained](#)

[Puerto Rico: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver](#)

(content note: contains explicit language and adult content)

[Puerto Rico's future is for Puerto Ricans to determine](#)

Eastern Europe/ Asia

Historian Lady Izdihar's [YouTube channel](#) and [Instagram page](#)

[Hong Kong is a Colony Once More](#)