

Colonialism and Neocolonialism

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“In Haiti, I saw above all what should not be done! A country that had supposedly conquered its liberty, that had conquered independence, and what I saw was more miserable than Martinique, a French colony! [Where peasants] work often like chained animals, they were real, but pathetic”

Aimé Césaire, *Nègre je suis*

Roadmap

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Where the revolution went wrong

Aimé Césaire

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Is Haiti exceptional?

History of underlying ideology

Maintaining Colonial Social Relations

“The Occupation worsened the economic crisis by augmenting the Haitian peasantry’s forced contribution to the maintenance of the state. It worsened the crisis of power by centralizing the Haitian army and disarming the provinces” (Trouillot)

US aid “achieves two strategic US goals: one, a restructured and dependent agriculture that exports to US markets and is open to American and exploitation, and the other, a displaced rural population that not only can be employed in offshore US industries in the towns, but is more susceptible to army control” (Chomsky)

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“In making funding decisions that make it impossible to provide quality public education to all its children, the Haitian state performs symbolic violence against poor families who cannot afford private education for their children (note that 92% of Haiti’s schools are private, according to the GTEF report).” (Doucet)

Reinforcing Colonial Ideology

“Culture and material resources are embedded in a loop, where each affects the other.” (Haslanger)

“By endorsing the sacredness of property rights and, implicitly, of landownership, Toussaint acknowledged the rights of France as the owner of the colony to distribute land to whom it sees fit and therefore, he excluded the “cultivateurs et ouvriers” from any privileges conferred by such right.” (Casimir)

“I don’t see any evidence of a policy against human rights.” True, there is violence, but “it’s just part of the culture” (Brunson McKinley)

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Is Haiti Exceptional?

Education

US-- Charter schools

Globally-- stratified education systems

Areas of study

Colorism/Racism/Casteism

Government Interventions

Iran

Nicaragua

Kashmir

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Discussion Questions

1. We've discussed how colonialism is continually perpetuated through education disparities and foreign aid and governmental involvement, can you think of any other fronts to this continued struggle? How have these impacted your life? The way you think? The way you act? How can we go about "decolonizing" ourselves?
2. The belief that French is a superior language to Haitian Creole depends on a colonial power structure that gives French speakers more symbolic capital than Haitian Creole speakers. Discuss instances in your life where you've noticed the effects of the (mal)distribution of symbolic capital.

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