



Discipline Course-1

Semester- 1

Paper : Colonialism in India

Lesson : Historical Perspective: Colonialism & Imperialism

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1.1 Imperialism and Colonialism: A Brief History



Source of image <http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Colonialism.aspx>

Accessed at 4.46 pm 13/09/2013

"Amid the welter of vague political abstractions ... where meanings shift so quickly and so subtly, not only following changes of thought, but often manipulated artificially by political practitioners so as to obscure, expand, or distort ... a certain broad consistency in its relations to other kindred terms is the nearest approach to definition which such a term as Imperialism admits. Nationalism, internationalism, colonialism, its three closest congeners, are equally elusive, equally shifty, and the changeful overlapping of all four demands the closest vigilance."

J. ALLAN HOBSON, *Imperialism*

1.1.1 Introduction

Imperialism and Colonialism are two terms that have been used interchangeably, though etymologically both have different meanings. But in terms of practice, it is tough to distinguish between the two. For example, British control of India has been seen as British 'imperialism' by some and as British 'colonialism' by others. In general, imperialism and colonialism are linked to the expansion of European countries like Spain, Holland, Portugal, France, and Britain in the third world territories. These expansions led to the formation of modern empires like Spanish, British Empire and so on. It is a kind of territorial expansion of one country over another's territory. Initially the motive behind the expansion was economic in nature but gradually it took a turn into political conquest. However, expansion of these countries brought many changes around the world in economic, political, and cultural arena. These European countries have not only brought their political-economic system to the countries of Asia and Africa but also left larger imprint of their culture in the minds of the people of the third world countries. These expansions were a result of new scientific discoveries that engulfed the whole of Europe during the 15th to the 18th centuries. During these periods, many developments took place like the Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution, the French revolution, and so on. These developments brought many changes in European society. Renaissance had led to the development of enlightenment and values that established human reason and logic over tradition and religious belief. The development of human reason and logic brought Europe in to modern age from the Dark Age of the medieval era.

Renaissance was a kind of cultural movement, which started in the Italy and spread whole Europe between 14th to 17 century. It was a kind of awakening that led to the establishment of new ideas and values. Literal meaning of this word is "rebirth", which was first used by one of the French historian Jules Michelet in his work 'Histoire de France'.

The Industrial revolution in Europe changed the nature of its society. European society, which used to be feudal in nature, became capitalist. During the transition from feudalism to capitalism, gradually mercantile capitalism developed which also promoted the discovery of sea routes in order to develop trade and commerce that ultimately opened the door for European expansion. In this business, the alliance between the monarch and the trading class encouraged monopoly trade, which characterized the initial phase of European expansion. For example, in the context of India, only the British East India Company got the trading right with India. All these developments promoted liberal values around the world that established rights of the individuals. However, the nature of the European expansion was not similar everywhere. For example, in parts of

America and Australia, white colonies were established where Europeans used to settle while colonies of Asia and Africa were primarily established in order to extract raw materials and sell the finished goods [see, Map 1] The policies of European countries differed accordingly. This accounts for the first difficulty in distinguishing imperialism from colonialism.

There are various perspectives that view imperialism and colonialism differently. The Liberal perspective views imperialism as a "civilizing mission". They believe that the countries of Asia and Africa have not achieved a sufficient level of modernity, so it is their duty to impart the values of "enlightenment" in order to civilize the colonial people. However, within the Liberal school, there are some philosophers of enlightenment like Immanuel Kant, Diderot, and Voltaire who were against "civilizing mission". Scottish thinker's, like Adam Smith, criticized imperialism because monopoly trade is against free trade, and is therefore not beneficial economically.

To view a map to learn about the route that was taken to trade between England and India, and to undertake an interesting exercise, go over to the next page.



Painting of Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci is an example of the development of art during Renaissance.
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renaissance>)



Source:

Think over it

*Do you think that
"civilizing mission" was
really meant to civilize
the people of colonies
like India?*

<http://regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/imperialism/index.cfm>

[Map 1]: Nature of trade between England and India

Apart from that, within the Liberal school, there were thinkers like J.S. Mill, who believed that in the 'white colonies' of America and Australia there was no need to engage with the cause of the 'civilizing mission' because people settled there enjoyed the same capability and thinking level as that of the British people. Thus, they had the capability to establish governments. But people of Asia and Africa (black colonies) had no capacity to govern themselves, making imperial control imperative. In this way, the Liberal school tried to legitimize the presence of Imperial Britain by defending imperialism in the name of 'civilizing mission'. ☆

The Liberal perspective of 'imperialism and colonialism' has found critics in both the Marxist and the Post-Colonial schools. The Marxist school viewed imperialism

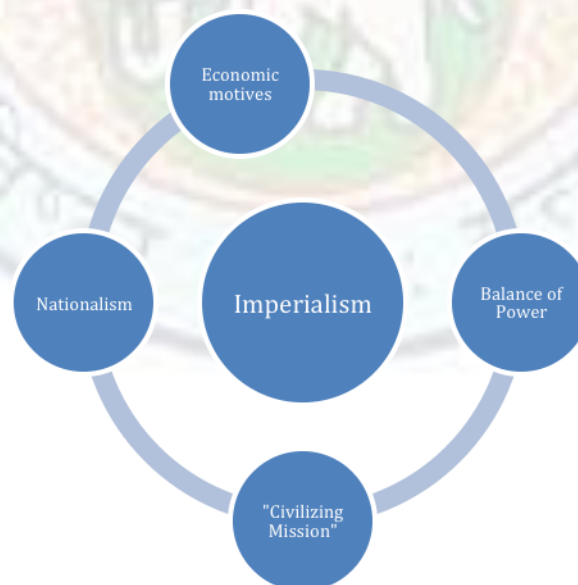
and colonialism from its economic perspective and criticized imperialism because it is based on exploitation of colonies. This school linked the expansionist nature of capital with the development of 'monopoly capitalism', which in turn tried to divide the world in their 'sphere of influence' in order to exploit resources of their respective colonies. The post-colonial school, on the other hand, tried to question the legitimacy of imperial power. This school of thought argued that western imperial countries have tried to portray the picture of the 'orient' countries as barbaric, uncivilized, and inferior. In a way, the post-colonial school tried to view the whole project of imperialism and colonialism from knowledge and power discourses by adopting the method of post-modernist thinker, such as Michael Foucault.

1.2 Defining Imperialism and Colonialism

As stated earlier, 'Imperialism' and 'Colonialism' are terms very often used interchangeably while discussing the politics of the last century. Social scientists use these terms to describe a pattern of relationship between two or more than two countries, mainly in the nineteenth and twentieth century world. But, as we will see later in the chapter, these terms are mostly used in a way that does not reflect their true meanings. Even their nature of relationship is so delicate that people often commit mistakes while using these terms. The origin of these concepts is rooted in European history. The rise of capitalism in Europe led to the rise of the nationalism that gave birth to imperialism and colonialism in the world. Hence, colonialism and imperialism in the western world is related to the growth of power and strength of capitalism under the guise of nationalism. Converse is the relationship between imperialism and nationalism in the third world, where countries were victims of imperialism and colonialism. In other words, the same idea of nationalism played a contrary role in these third world countries. The rise of national consciousness in the colonised world was a result of exploitation that led to anti-colonial and anti-imperialist movements in these countries. [Map 2]. Therefore, one can say that both these terms and concepts; imperialism and colonialism are very closely linked with each other and as also with the concept of nationalism. Thus, there is need to study these complex concepts to finally arrive at a clear understanding of history.

Imperialism refers to the establishment and safeguarding of unequal economic, political, and cultural relationship between states, which is very often expressed in terms of domination and subordination. In other words, it entails the oppression and exploitation of the weak in the hands of the powerful. The word

'imperial' is derived from the Latin word; *imperium* which means 'command'. In its broader meaning, it involves, "the domination by one country or group of people over others in ways that benefit the former usually at the expense of the latter" {Keith & Gurley, 1985}. According to Cohen, "Imperialism might be defined as a relationship of effective domination or control, political or economic, direct or indirect, of one nation over another" {Benjamin, 1973}. George Lichtheim described empire/imperialism as "the relationship of ruling or controlling power to those under its domination. He traced imperialism from its classic roots in Greek and Roman empires. He believed that domination and subjugation constitute the elements of imperialism" {Lichtheim (1970)}. Whereas Chilcote argues that imperialism, as a relationship of domination and subjugation, is derived not only from the traditional understanding of imperialism (dating back to the Greek and Roman Empires) but it is also associated with the influence of mercantile interests, along with the rise of nation-state and the spread of European power overseas to Africa and Latin America {Chilcote, 1981: 4}. For example, British Empire and Russian Tsarist regime had established its control over large parts of Asia-Africa and central Asia, respectively. In other words, imperialism is attached with powerful states that have capability to dominate other states. If one is going by the literal meaning, colonialism has different connotation altogether. However, like modern day imperialism, colonialism, too, developed mainly as a consequence of the Industrial revolution in the West.



Map 2 (Factors Responsible for Imperialism)

**Vasco Da Gama**

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama

However, looking from etymological point of view, the term 'colony' originated from the Latin word '*colonus*', meaning 'farmer'. This simply means that colonialism originally involved the transfer of population to a new territory. The transferred population known as settlers became a permanent resident on the new territory. In most of the occasions, transfer of population or settlements comes with implantation of the political systems of the mother countries. (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy). In other words, the word '*colonialism*' connotes the permanent settlement on a new territory known as 'colony', by a group of people known as 'settlers', who have moved there from their original home.

However, the above meaning of the term colonialism does not explain some specific cases such as British control over India and different European powers' control over China during the last century. Hence, the term colonialism needed to acquire a more political meaning than the description above proposed. It became more of a kind of domination on a colony by a coloniser. Colony here means, the territory where a dominant power has established its political and economic control through either explicit use of force (as in case of India), or tacitly controlling the economy of the country (as in the case of China). The indirect control of a foreign territory had different names like, protectorate, dominion or satellite state. Thus colonialism, like imperialism denotes a process of economic exploitation through political control. Invariably, however, when a dominant power uses force with a view to establish control over political institutions of the subjugated colony the relationship of colonialism changes into imperialism. Being essentially a relationship, it becomes difficult, at times, to identify a dividing line

between the two. In case of India, the suppression of the rebellion of 1857 by brutal force used by the British denoted a change in the relationship. The British had openly shed the disguise of being mere traders or revenue – seekers. Sometimes, it also involves cultural dominance of a colonial power over the colony in the name of 'civilising' its natives. For example, most of the African territory witnessed uninterrupted activities of Christian missionaries, which were responsible for the mass conversion of natives to Christianity in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Hence, understanding of colonialism is crucial to understand the specific form of cultural exploitation that developed over a period of time.

1.3 Tracing the History of Empires: A Brief overview

If one were look at the history of empires then throughout history there is rise and fall of empires. In most of the cases, new empires used to emerge on the debris of old empires. Basically, each and every empire was driven by their motive to control the resources that existed in a particular region as a whole. In order to get the benefit, empires developed trade networks and controlled territories of other states, so that they can derive benefit from these links with other areas. Besides this, almost, all the empires evolved their unique administrative system to give stability to their regime. For example, the Roman Empire extended its citizenship rights to non-roman people also; simply to control the whole empire. They also evolved different types of military organization. It has been seen that, the achievements of one empire were often adopted by its successor. In sum, the expansion of imperial rule throughout history has been guided primarily by economic motives to acquire resources and expand territorial boundary.

Since the beginning, broadly speaking, history of human civilization is full of history of empires, which starts from Mesopotamia or Assyrian empire or Macedonian empires or Roman Empires in the ancient past to the Byzantine Empire in the Middle Ages and European empires in the Modern era. With the expansion of empires mainly two things flourished: one, trade-network (land route or sea route) and second; imprints of the culture of imperial country over the colonized area. During the time of Alexander, ruler of Macedonia, most part of the North Africa, West Asia, and Iran came under his control and Alexander reached up to the Beas in India but his soldiers refused to move forward. In fact, Alexander's troops retreated. Though, Alexander could not conquer the whole

world but the area, under control of Alexander, shared the ideals and cultural traditions of Macedonia. . Particularly, the region of Greece became Hellenized (the Greek were called Hellenes) and Greek became a famous language despite the disintegration of Alexander's empire. After the disintegration of Macedonian empire, the Italian city-states of Rome build their empire over the debris of the Macedonian empire. The area of Roman Empire was stretched from North Africa to the eastern Mediterranean from the second century B.C. This was despite the small size of the Roman army, which was well organized and reaped benefit from the internal discords of later rulers of the Macedonian empire.



Map 3: Expansion of Imperial Rome

Source:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_the_Holy_Roman_Empire_in_the_10th_century.png

The expansion of the Roman imperial rule, like any other empire, was primarily driven by economic motives. It was focused on increasing wealth for which additional land needed to be acquired. During that point of time, the main source of revenue for the Roman Empire was drawn largely from agriculture. To maintain its legitimacy and promote public welfare works like grain subsidies and distribution of provincial lands to the poor, it was important to have additional source of revenue. Generally, public works were funded from the tribute paid by conquered people (Badian 1968). Funds were largely drawn from Roman colonies in Asia Minor. Besides this, for the Italian city-state, war provided important social and cultural arena where Roman citizens distinguished themselves in the

eyes of their fellow citizens. Generally, loyal soldiers use to get generous grants in the form of land. The "result was a growing territory that needed ever more troops to defend it, and a growing army that needed ever more land to support it" (Davies 1996). It was during Julius Caesar's reign, by the middle of the first Century, that the Roman Empire extended its control to present day Britain and Germany .



Map 4: Ottoman Empire (1801)

Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_the_Ottoman_Empire

If one were to compare modern British imperialism with the Roman Empire then one can find commonality in the working style of both. For example, like the British Empire, the Roman Empire had also constituted the best armed forces in the world, which used to be a paid force - uniformed and armed by the State. The Roman Empire possessed the finest military organization of its time. Its men were highly trained, disciplined and extremely mobile, just like those of the British army. This underlines the rule that imperial powers required a strong military capability to survive. If one looks at the political imaginary of Imperial Rome, then one can see that the original source of present day bureaucratic and legal authority of the modern State, either in the West or third world countries, can be traced to the Roman Empire. In fact, Roman rule has helped to establish a historical lineage constituting the modern territorial State as the culmination of a Western civilization. That is why nineteenth century imperialist often invoked Roman Empire as a guiding model and moral justification for their activities. Over a period of time (seventh century onwards), the eastern part of Roman Empire came to be taken over by the Arab empire, which was created by the followers of the Prophet Muhammad and its main centre was Damascus. There was a close interaction between Greek and Islamic traditions in the region. This area was well connected with trading link, and due to this, the region was prosperous. The

prosperity of the region, in fact, drew the attention of the north including various Turkish tribes. These tribes often attacked the cities of the region and established control over them. In the end, under Genghis Khan, Mongols attacked these people. Earlier the empires used to concentrate on the expansion within a single land mass. For example, the Chinese empire, the empires of the Moors, the Roman empire. Gradually byzantine and Holy Roman Empires expanded in the form of a single land mass. However, due to technological development, particularly due to mechanization of ships (motor ships, with navigational tools), situations altered. The geographical cohesion for empires became thing of the past. Due to larger and fast moving ships, it became possible for the modern European Nation--State to stretch their limit to other parts of Asia and America. Such vessels enabled not only the geographical expansion of population, but also enabled such population to keep contact with their home place.

The European expansions were largely linked to the 'discovery of sea routes' which is also called as an 'Age of Discovery'. This led to overseas expansion of European Nation-State that ultimately led to the rise of colonial empires in parts

Age of discovery is also known as Age of exploration, which is attached with the discoveries of new sea routes around the world. It is argued that due to discovery of new sea routes, the colonialism developed. Basically, Europeans explored the parts of Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania that led to establishment of new colonies around the world.

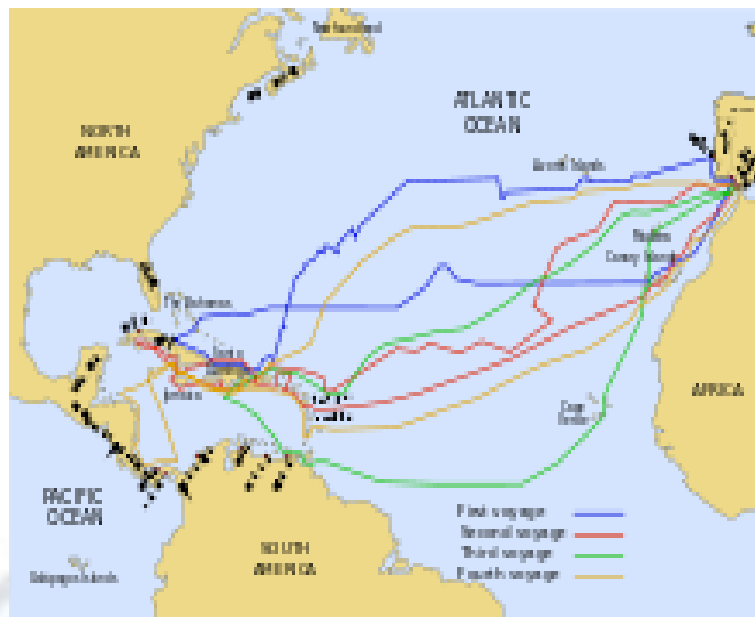
of Asia, Africa, and America. These discoveries were necessary for European power to find a new market. Initially, when Columbus discovered the route for America in 1492, the foundation of a Spanish Empire in America was established. It was almost a century before British expansion into America. Historians argue that England was the first industrialized Nation-State though, in terms of expansion, the English were late beginners (Ferguson, 2002: 8). In order to acquire new territories, England usually avoided any kind of conflict with the Spanish empire. England focused on those territories where there was no control of the Spanish. Henry VII asked John Cabot to sail to all parts, regions and coasts of the eastern, western, and northern sea but not the southern sea [to avoid any conflict with Spanish empire] under English flags and banners. Click on the film

below to see how the British Empire grew, beginning with Newfoundland and the discovery of America by Columbus.



Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U14cVAuHlaE>

The British Empire grew more after the Reformation, which established a new kind of faith in the supremacy of the Bible called Protestantism within Christianity. The English sense of "empire envy" grew more acute when the Protestants spoke of war "against Catholic Spain ". Thus, the expansion of the English Empire acquired a religious overtone, and it became an obligation (religious duty) to build a kind of Protestant Empire. According to Ferguson, it was just to match the 'Popish' empires of the Spanish and Portuguese (Ferguson, 2002). In a way, there were many "imperial wars" between European powers to establish their supremacy and finally the British Empire emerged victorious amongst all.

**Map 5: Voyage of Columbus**

[Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyages_of_Christopher_Columbus]

**Map 6: Voyage of Vasco da Gama**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Discovery#Gama.27s_route_to_India]

But as argued earlier, these European empires were largely influenced by the Roman Empire. For example, the Spanish and Portuguese Empires in Central and South America operated on two principles: first, to extract resources of riches, second, the conversion of the indigenous population.



Map 7: Siege of Constantine (1836) during the French conquest of Algeria

[Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonialism>]

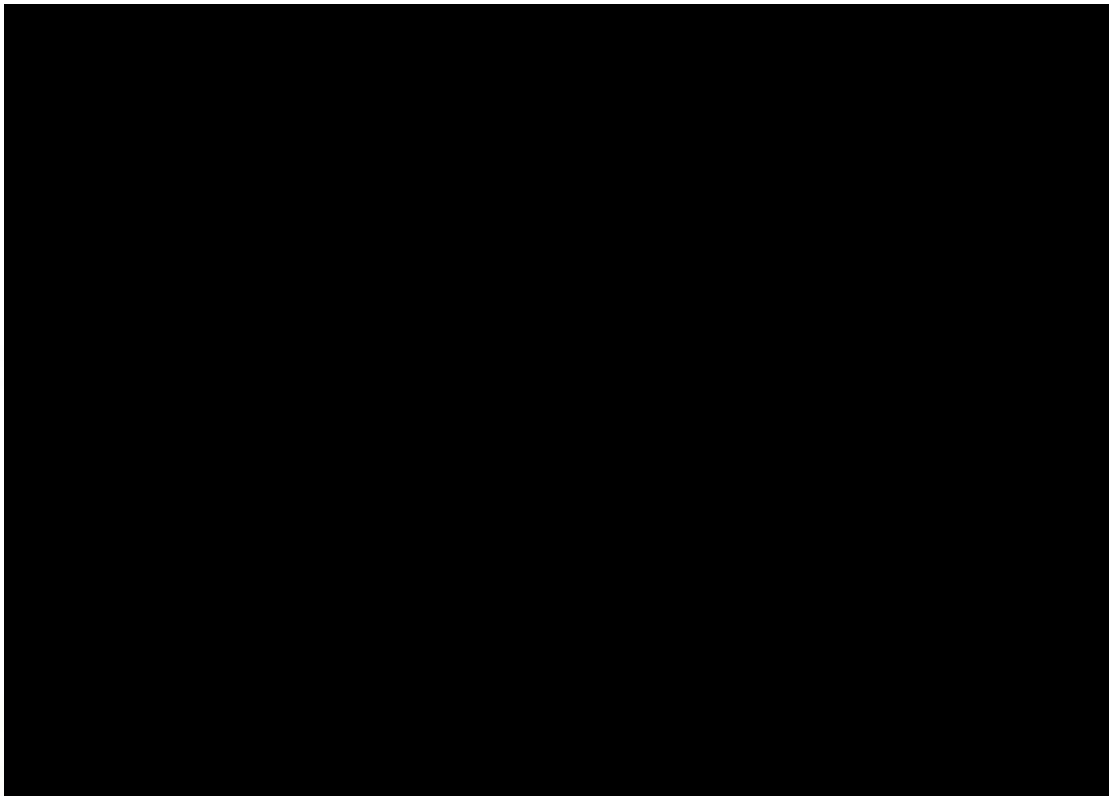
The British Empire in India, which used to collect land revenues, can be said to have followed the same tradition. Whether it was Spain or Portugal or British, all attempted mass conversion of the indigenous people into Christianity. The Spanish drive for mass conversion of southern Americans was kind of a militant drive to convert people to a new religion. However, one thing important here is that, in general, the main purpose of the colonial master was settlement as in the British expansion in North America and the colonial control of the local subjects. Despite their attempts to expand their control, there was a different kind of European establishment in America by the Spanish, Portuguese and British, which demands theoretical and terminological distinctions.

The British Empire was built on the lust for power and expansion. It set a moral tone to its adventure by insisting that the Empire was undertaking a 'civilizing mission'. Click on the film below to see extracts of a BBC film to witness the "Taste for Power" of the British Empire.

Colonialism has originated from the term '*colony*' (the Latin word '*colonus*', meaning farmer, whereas the imperialism, on the other hand, comes from the Latin word, '*imperium*', meaning to 'command'.

Think over it....

Do you think British Empire modernized the Indian Society?



Source: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gThWWIHsv_g

1.4 Imperialism Vs. Colonialism

Scholars, in general, distinguished between these two terms. Edward Said offers the following distinction: "imperialism" means the practice, the theory, and the attitudes of a dominating metropolitan centre ruling a distant territory, "colonialism", which is almost always a consequences of imperialism, is the implanting of settlements on distant territory' (Said, 1993). This post-Renaissance colonial expansion was coterminous with the development of a modern capitalist system. Colonies were primarily established to provide raw materials for the "burgeoning economies of the colonial powers" which were greatly strengthened and institutionalised. It also meant that the relationship between the colonizer and the colonised was locked into a rigid hierarchy. This was deeply resistant to fair and equitable exchanges; be it was a matter of economic, cultural or social exchanges. In the colonies, it is important to know about the distinctiveness of race between white and black, which is also crucial. This distinction helped in part of the construction and naturalisation of an unequal form of intercultural relations. Basically, being a product of modern capitalism,

colonisation involves a system of economic domination where the sole basis of colonisation is money or robbing the wealth of the colonies. This pushes the colonies into a state of stagnation from where no society can take off easily. Going one step further, for Fanon, colonialism controls the mind of the colonised and therefore, in order to end colonisation, first the colonised must see the myth that has been placed on them. Fanon describes colonisation as a system of fear, instilled in the colonised so that they would feel inferior and thus incapable of defending themselves {Fanon, 1963}.

Both imperialism and colonialism involved forms of subjugation of one people by another. In fact, such kind of domination can be found often in human history. However, a basic difference emerges here between an empire, which was created for ideological purposes and bureaucratically controlled by a government from the centre and one which was developed for ideological as well as financial reasons. The former structure can be called imperialism whereas some colonies developed for the purpose of settlement, for trading purposes, by an individual community, can be called colonialism. So, with imperialism, the notion of power is involved and guided by particular sets of dominant ideology of the metropolitan centre. In other words, it is primarily concerned with the assertion and expansion of State power. French invasion of Algeria can be seen in this context. In historical terms, imperialism operated in two major forms: the Roman, Ottoman and Spanish imperial model, and that of late nineteenth-century Europe. Colonialism also took two major forms. French colonial theorists typically distinguished between colonization and domination, the British between dominions and dependencies; modern historians between settlement and exploitation colonies. This grim, but straightforward, distinction constitutes the fundamental difference within the practice of colonialism, namely between colonies that were pre-dominantly established for the purpose of settlement, such as British North America, Australia and New Zealand and French Algeria, or Portuguese Brazil and those that were directly (or indirectly) administered ones, established for economic exploitation without any significant settlement, such as American Philippines and Puerto Rico, British India, Dutch East Indies, French India and New Caledonia, German Togo, or Japanese Taiwan.



THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.—*The Journal, Detroit.*
From *The Detroit Journal*, February 18, 1899

Map 8

[Source: <http://regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/imperialism/index.cfm>]

In this definite analysis of the different configuration that colonialism took in historical terms, Jurgen Osterhammel has argued for the addition of a third category, which he names '*maritime enclaves*', that is, those islands, harbours, and other strategic points that were occupied as a base for the purposes of global military and naval operations, sometimes with the added purpose of trading and commercial interaction with its mainland (historical examples would include American Guantanamo, its naval base in Cuba, Guam, and Hawaii, British Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Malta and Singapore, Dutch Batavia, French/ British Mauritius, and Portuguese Malacca). The more the commercial activities of these bases' developed, the more they generally developed into variations of a domination colony.

So, in a way, colonialism is directly related to imperialism, though there are variations within colonial practice. However, imperialism has constituted the global political system. That is why both the terms are used interchangeably. As argued earlier, there is a difference between the two which is largely etymological in nature rather than there being a difference in

The term, 'White Man's Burden' is associated with the English poet, Rudyard Kipling, who believed that it is duty of the white people to manage the affairs of the non-white people.

This idea is considered to be "racist", however it is matter of debate. It is debatable because for the Europeans, this was part of their "civilizing mission" project though for the countries of Asia and Africa, it was nothing but an example of colonial attitudes.

practice. **In fact, imperialism is more clearly related to the military led expansion of political dominance. Unlike colonialism, an imperial power does not necessarily transfer its population or system of government to foreign territory as it mingles the territory into itself.** However, there is also another aspect of colonialism that has been described, largely, by post-colonial school of thought. As most of the colonial countries were European, it was much more than mere economic and political domination that Europeans proclaimed themselves as 'enlightened ones' who were trying to spread rationality and modernity to ignorant parts of the world (Nandy, 1983). This was later justified on the basis of the theory of 'White Man's Burden' given by English poet Rudyard Kipling in 1899. As in case of India, the British tried to defend their colonial ambitions by saying that their mission is to "civilise the inferior Indians." **According to some thinkers, " colonial discourse imposed European categories over the colonised people and destroyed their own understanding of self, history and epistemology" (Chakrabarty, 2000). In a way, natives "were made to learn that their past was stagnant and there was nothing to be emulated from their own heritage. Thus, colonial discourse calculated to disrupt the cultural priorities of subject societies and it resulted in constructing a new identity and history for the colonised one" (Prakash, 1992).**

1.5 Colonialism and Imperialism in the Indian Context: A Brief Outline

In the context of India, imperialism and colonialism is associated with the discovery of sea route to India via the Cape of Good Hope. It was Vasco da Gama, who for the first time landed in India in 1498 via the Cape of Good Hope and brought the European Nation-State to the Indian soil. When European traders came to India, Mughal dynasty ruled here. The downfall of the Mughal Empire, after the death of Aurangzeb, was associated with the rise of European traders - who eventually turned themselves from simple traders to a colonial power that ruled India for 200 years.



Source: www.causamerita.com

Click on an extract of the film below, titled "Taste for Power" produced by the BBC, to see how the British began with South India in their design to colonialize.



Source: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gThWWIHsv_g

In order to strengthen their position, the East India Company began to raise armies and also involved themselves in internal matters of native rulers. However, decisive change came in the history of modern India when the British won the Battle of Plassey in 1757. This battle enabled the British East India Company to develop a political roadmap for their future expansion. After the Battle of Plassey, the British got the right to collect the taxes from Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. This helped Britain to emerge as a regional power on the Indian soil.



[Meeting of Vasco da Gama with Zamorin]

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama

The defeat of the Marathas at Panipat in 1761, against Ahmad Shah Abdali, provided another opportunity for the British to gain their foothold in India territory. Though under Peshawa Madhav Rao I, Maratha powers gained in India but by that time the British had strengthened their position which rule ultimately ended with the independence of India in 1947.

The East India Company began its trading activities in India in the early 17th century. Indians, then, were not very enthusiastic about products made by the foreign company. The British traders had come to India to sell products like British Broadcloth, which was judged as the most famous product of continental Europe at that time. However, they were disappointed to find that they cannot sell it in India due to lack of demand. Instead, they found several Indian-made items that they thought they could sell quite profitably back home. In this context, they were not very different from other European traders like the Portuguese.

Lack of competition to reach India through different routes, sea or land, was crucial to become a dominant player. Therefore, it was necessary to have control on the routes to India to facilitate control on the Indian market. The early British traders were in no position to dictate terms. They had to seek concessions with a measure of humility and offer trade terms that offered at least some benefits to the local rulers and merchants. Gradually, the East India Company had established control over trade routes. This control over the routes facilitated the control over the trade centers on the Indian coast - line. Once they got this base they became greedy and started exploring ways to establish monopoly in India. The weakening of the Mughal Empire, lack of unity among the Indian feudal lords and absence of any competent competitor encouraged this mission.



Map 9: British Rule in India

[Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire]

Gradually, as we will see it in the next chapter, the company was successful to get concessions from local rulers to establish armed forces and collect taxes in provinces like Bengal. The industrial revolution in Europe and particularly in Britain made advancement in military technology possible. It also made European products cheaper to that of Indian products as production in India was still small and domestic. This led to the massive surge in the economic and military power of Britain and other European countries. This was the reason that when Battle of Plassey (1757) was fought, the Indians were in no position to challenge the rise of Britain. It was decisive in the history of Indian colonialism because success in the Battle of Plassey gave to the British East India Company, for the first time, the right to collect land revenues. This was the beginning of Indian colonialism. After the Battle of Plassey, continued successive defeats of the Marathas in 1818, the Sikhs in 1848 and the annexation of Awadh in 1856. 1857 was a picture of bravado, attempted to recede the victories of the East India Company, but instead, after brutal suppression by the English of the uprising, it advanced the might of the entire British Empire. The Indian colonies of the British East India Company became British Colonial India - and thus began a new phase of colonial plunder from the Indian sub-continent.

For almost next 200 years, colonial administration consolidated its hold on India. The massive machine- based production and political control of the country

facilitated economic subjugation of India. Indian natural resources and cheap labour were exploited to the core by British colonial administration. There was a systematic transfer of wealth from India to Europe. Britain got tremendous benefits from its Indian colony. The industrial revolution and the development of modern capitalism were based on the colonization of India. India was considered as the 'Jewel of British Crown' and the income coming from this colony helped Britain to sustain rest of its colonies across the world. However, due to preference given to British industries, Indian manufacturing industry suffered tremendously. Just as an example, it was estimated that by the First World War, India was consuming more than 85 per cent of cotton-based production from Britain. It was also consuming more than 17 per cent of British production of iron and steel (Shekar 2009). Indians were forced into pauperization, and despite the introduction of many modern ideas and means, the Indian economy could not endure its massive exploitation. The impact of the colonial loot of India was so immense that, even after its independence in 1947, India could not emerge into her own,. That is why the dependency school of thought tried to highlight linkages between development of the West and underdevelopment of the developing countries. Hence, the over-simplified solution suggested by this school was complete detachment from the West.

Colonialism and Imperialism then are about a relationship. Wherever colonialism culminates into imperialism, as it mostly does, the relationship of the stronger and more powerful country is marked by exploitation, domination or control that eventually leads to dependence. When imperialism comes to a formal end, as it did in the post war era, it is replaced by a more subtle form of 'influence' marked by control by way of military and economic aid while trade, commerce and diplomacy become the instruments of undeclared exploitation of the developed over the developing nation. The non-aligned movement in a by-polar world was a feeble attempt with the help of the communists' regimes to balance the spheres of influence. After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the emergence of liberalization and globalization led to a unipolar world dominated by the United States of America. Western countries, led by the United States of America, have unleashed direct use of military power and physical occupation in the face of a paralyzed United Nations Organization. Military intervention, on pretext of safeguarding democratic rights of the people or curbing international terrorism, in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and the current threats held out to Syria illustrate that in relationship between nations, new phraseology is coined periodically to denote this phenomenon of dominance. By its nature, dominance is resistant to change.

Summary

- The evolution of empire can be traced from the Roman Empire.
- Due to technological development, it is not necessary that Modern empire would be geographically contiguous.
- The mechanization of ships played a crucial role in the whole project of colonization and imperialism. In fact, ships made possible the modern European expansion on a large scale.
- Discovery of sea routes proved vital to reach different places. So, discovery of sea routes, along with development of mechanized ships, had not only provided faster mode of transportation possible but this also helped in sending the people from one place to other.
- Colonialism and Imperialism have generally been used interchangeably, though there is difference. Broadly, imperialism is a kind of dominant ideology and colonialism is practice of it.
- There were several kinds of arrangement under Modern European Empires like protectorate, dominion or satellite state.
- Modern European empires not only brought their political system but also they infused their culture values among the native peoples especially, under British Empire.
- In case of India, "Civilizing Mission" was main agenda of British Empire as they would claim. However, post-colonial writers criticized the whole propaganda of "civilizing mission".
- There were many wars that took place amongst Europeans to get control over new territory. Anglo-French rivalry in the context of India can be a good example.

Exercises

- 1.1 Trace the evolution of Empires since the Roman period.
- 1.2 Define colonialism and imperialism and point out the basic differences between these two.
- 1.3 Give a brief outline of colonialism and imperialism in the context of India.

Glossary

Colonialism emerged from the Latin word *colonus*, which means farmer. So, in etymological terms, colonialism is a kind of system, where some sections of population left their original place and settled in another territory. However, colonialism is considered as a practice, where one country controls the political, social and cultural aspect of another country.

Imperialism as an ideology is a progeny of capitalism, whereby a strong country controls or establishes its dominance over another. It is based on a relationship of domination-subordination.

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Films

"History for Dummies"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U14cVAuHlaE>

"Taste For Power": A BBC Production

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gThWWIHsv_g

Suggested Readings

Chilcote, Ronald H (1981), "Theories of Comparative Politics: The Search for a paradigm Reconsidered," Oxford: West view Press.

Ferguson, Niall, 2003, "Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World". London: Allen Lane.

Web Links

1.1 [Map 1]: Nature of trade between England and India.

[<http://regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/imperialism/index.cfm>]

1.2 Map 3: Expansion of Imperial Rome.

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_the_Holy_Roman_Empire_in_the_10th_century.png]

1.3 Map 4: Ottoman Empire (1801)

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_the_Ottoman_Empire]

1.4 Map 5: Voyage of Columbus.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyages_of_Christopher_Columbus

1.5 Map 6: Voyage of Vasco da Gama.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Discovery#Gama.27s_route_to_India]

1.6 Map 7: Siege of Constantine (1836) during the French conquest of Algeria.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonialism>]

1.7 Map 8.

<http://regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/imperialism/index.cfm>]

1.8 Map 9 British Rule in India.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire

1.9 Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

<http://plato.stanford.edu/search/searcher.py?query=colonialism>

