



IMPERIALISM, HISTORY & INDIGENEITY



IMPERIALISM:

- is an idea with widespread cultural, intellectual and technical components
- it stems from the European intellectual and philosophical movement known as the Enlightenment
- is a set of economic, political, and military values, with Europe at the center of control - Necessitates the erasure of original inhabitants of "discovered" lands
- New scholars define imperialism as: "primitive accumulation" meaning Empires using whatever means necessary to acquire lands and resources

4 DIFFERENT USES OF THE WORD IMPERIALISM

1. Economic expansion: Imperialism as securing new markets outside of Europe for resources and capital.
2. Subjugation of others: Imperialism as stealing lands, resources, exploiting, enslave indigenous peoples & people of colour.
3. Imperialism as an idea/spirit with many forms of realization: A complex, multilayered & embedded thought pattern in the heads of everyone in contact with it.
4. Discursive field of knowledge: Imperialism as a layered system of thought best critiqued by centering those with membership/ experience in colonized societies.

IMPERIALISM TO BENEFIT EUROPEANS

- **Science and research is another way colonizers and settlers continue extracting information from Indigenous peoples**
- **Legislation and imperial laws exist and benefit colonizers and white settlers.**
- **Natural Rights invented by Europeans seem as though they should include everyone, but have excluded Indigenous peoples and people of colour since their invention**

INTERRUPTING IMPERIALIST HISTORY



CENTERING INDIGENOUS THOUGHT & EXPERIENCE WITH IMPERIALISM & COLONIALISM

- Recognizing diverse ways that imperialism impacted and continues to impact different communities and peoples
- Centering Indigenous knowledge on how imperialism works to serve interests of colonizers & settlers
- Recognizing vast forms of resistance and resilience of diverse Indigenous peoples across the globe in confronting imperialism, and living within imperialism
- Looking to Indigenous scholars writing back to the empire for academic resources & decolonizing practices

IMPERIAL/ ONE SIDED WRITTEN HISTORY

- Historic colonial figures, such as Christopher Columbus, are not a heroes, but symbols of a legacy of suffering under imperial rule
- History is patriarchal: it places the white man as the expert and discredits oral histories of Indigenous peoples
- History is assumed to be about development, and progress over time, but colonial progress has necessitated the removal of Indigenous peoples from their lands, and continual and attempted erasure silencing of indigenous voices
- History is constructed around binary categories such as discovered, and undiscovered, disregarding Indigenous knowledge and ways of life
- History needs to include all perspectives surrounding events in order to be factual, and this is nearly impossible, making history the story of the most powerful, and typically most violent

Works Cited:

Tuhiwai, Smith, Professor Linda. Decolonizing Methodologies : Research and Indigenous Peoples, Zed Books, 2012, p. 63-70. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/lib/uvic/detail.action?docID=1426837>.