

IMPERIALISM & CAPITALISM

Imperialism is the exploitation, appropriation, and subjugation of Indigenous lands and peoples across the globe by Europeans in pursuit of economic expansion. Imperialism gave rise to colonization i.e. creation of European settler outposts on Turtle Island, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. **These imperial nation-states** established through genocide are maintained to this day through racist culture and political policy.

ON IMPLICIT RACISM

After the Second World War, **challenges by decolonial and** civil rights activists meant that European empires could no longer maintain their explicit subjugation of colonized, non-white nations in Africa, India and Asia. But unfortunately by the 1960s, **imperial nation-states** found that implicit rule was an even more effective tactic for control. By establishing markets of labour (the labour of people of colour, especially women) and trade in the newly 'independent' nations of the global South - from which European economies would reap capital rewards - Europeans wove their influence into the fabric of the new global economy. Glossy new look, same old supremacy.

Capitalism is a contemporary economic practice built on privately owned, for-profit industry and the development of consumer and labour markets - wherein said labour **depends** particularly of people of colour. Capitalism is contingent on the exploitation of workers and the depredation of the global South. It functions to inflate the power of the rich and suppress the power of the poor.

CONSUMERISM

The global North relies on the depredation of the global South. Consumerism, an outgrowth of capitalism, is predicated on underpaid workers in the global South whose labour keep prices low and consumer sales high. These workers make up the bulk of the labour force for the North's plantations and factories a.k.a. the huge industries that are largely responsible for our changing climate. These Southern nations are trapped by the need to keep economies afloat on both the macro and micro level. They face the majority of the consequences of consumer capitalism.

AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Populations in the southern hemisphere are being hit fastest and hardest by the consequences of the climate crisis. Already the hottest countries with some of the poorest populations, for these nations rising temperatures mean amplified risk of drought, famine, and forced migration due to unsafe living conditions. The fact that these countries are more vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, as a direct result of neocolonialism and the capitalist economy, means that this is a crisis not only of climate, but racism too.

THE VEIL OF THE AMERICAN (AND CANADIAN) DREAM

you might be used to this settler-centered rhetoric

In the 19th century, as the nature of white government in the "New World" was changing, American settlers elected Andrew Jackson president on a platform advocating opportunity for the demographic he named as the common man. Jackson spoke to democracy; challenging class privilege and championing social mobility for white lower class folks seeking to establish themselves in new American society. This agenda boasted inclusivity and the American dream: freedom to build individual wealth, which at the time hinged heavily on possessing land.

flip the narrative - pov influences how we see history

In the 19th century, Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island found ways to adapt to the capitalist economy imposed upon them by colonizers, and to prosper (by white capitalist standards) within it. So settlers tried new tactics in attempt to grasp superiority. Guilefully appealing to a demographic broader in class but ever more narrowed to only white men, the government preached their ideal version of democracy; garnering support to violently dispossess and disappear Indigenous peoples in pursuit of land controlled exclusively by white "Americans".

Factsheet by Suraya C. All data sourced from the following:

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