

RACE: HISTORY & IDEAS

THE WEST VS THE REST

IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM

THE TWO ARE FUNDAMENTALLY INTERCONNECTED

Imperialism is an ideology predicated on political and economic expansion. Colonialism is both a mechanism and component of imperialism. The two concepts are inseparable, and driven by one another. Think of colonialism as the outposts, ports, and forts, of imperialism. "The West" is a set of ideas, tied to imperialism rather than a geographical location.



RACE

A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT

The **concept of race** was invented to suit an ideological and imperialistic purpose. It changes across the course of history to reflect the political reality rather than the biological reality. Historically, the concept has been **weaponized** and used to disenfranchise or exploit certain populations or groups of people.



ETHNICITY

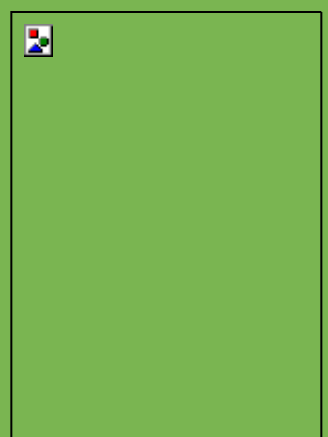
IMPLICIT IN RACISM?

The term **ethnicity** is used to designate societal and cultural **norms**, and is often confused with **race**. It is often used interchangeably as another way of saying race. For this reason, we need to be careful of the term and its usage, avoiding the repetition and replication of imperialist discourse, thereby recognizing its destructive capabilities.

D.N.A.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SCIENCE

Patterns of genetic variations are not visually observable, and do not correlate with phenotypical variation. D.N.A. was **weaponized** along with the abstract concept of race, and together the two were used as forces to both justify and uphold oppression. D.N.A. then, became another manifestation of othering: a phenomenon where some groups are defined and labelled as not fitting within societal norms, and thus are often excluded from the advantages associated with normality.



GLOBALIZATION

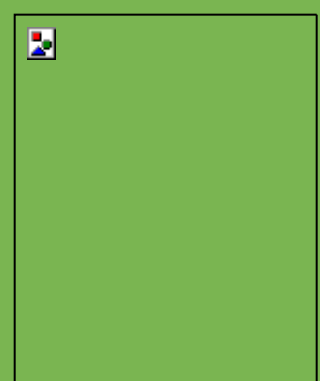
A NEW CHALLENGE

Globalization represents a new challenge for Indigenous communities and their cultures. As a substitution for colonial imperialism, globalization has the same potentially destructive power to overwrite pre-existing cultural identities and narratives, in addition to its effects of exploitation on Indigenous lands and resources.

DECOLONIZATION

WHAT IS IT?

Decolonization is an effort to dismantle colonial institutions and imperialistic ways of thinking. It's an effort to bring Indigenous concerns and worldviews to the forefront of the conversation, and through doing so, recover the narratives that were overwritten.





RESPONDING TO RACE

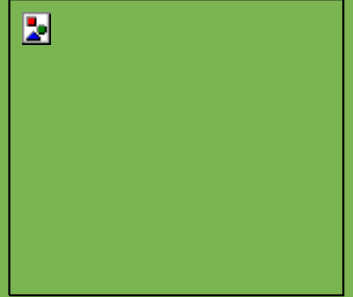
THE FACTS AND BRASS TACKS

Race has more to do with **power structures** and **politics** than it has ever had to, or will ever have to do with a biological reality. The **concept of race** is just another way to **divide** and separate humankind. As applied to the human race, it will never be a useful concept in any progressive society. We can do our part by discontinuing our use of this problematic term.

ART AND CULTURE

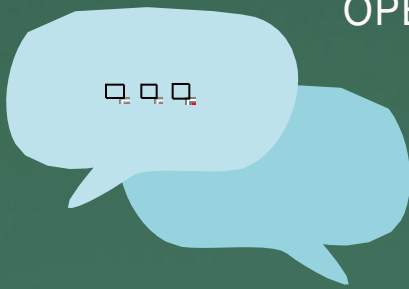
FACILITATE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Art is central to one's own culture and understanding of their place in the world. Be open to alternatives other than the dominant styles of art and storytelling. Be understanding of the power of perspective.



DECONSTRUCTING THE POPULAR DISCOURSE

OPENING OUR EYES AND EARS

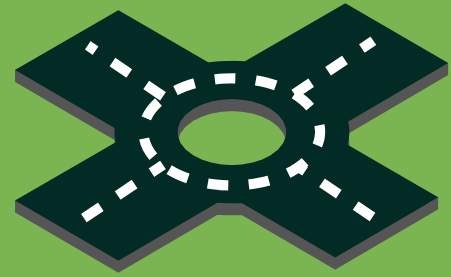


Discontinue the use of harmful and incorrect terms, and discard inaccurate stereotypes. Cease the denial of and perpetuation of racist ideas.

INTERSECTIONALITY

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A COMMON CAUSE

Intersectionality is the overlap in experiences, identities, and common causes which can be used to form both a more meaningful and effective resistance.



STORIES

ALL WE ARE



"The truth about stories, it's all we are" - Thomas King

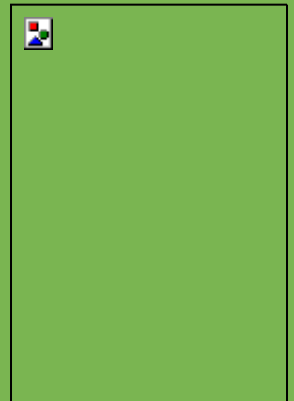
Though the truth cannot change history, it can change the future. Truth will not alter the marginalization of Indigenous people, nor will give the Indigenous the tools needed to transform truth into justice. The truth can, however, be a powerful tool for both healing and increasing awareness, as can stories. Stories, especially of the oral tradition, are an important component of Indigenous identity.

DECOLONIZATION

HOW CAN IT BE ACHIEVED?

At its heart, decolonization is about the repatriation of Indigenous land and life. Some contend that re-distribution of land is an unsettling and inherently colonial idea. Regardless, race is ultimately a concept created for imperialistic purposes, which has no ground in scientific or identifiable reality as applied to modern humans, and should thus be dismantled.

TOGETHER



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