



ISSN Print: 2394-7500  
ISSN Online: 2394-5869  
Impact Factor: 5.2  
IJAR 2018; 4(11): 331-337  
[www.allresearchjournal.com](http://www.allresearchjournal.com)  
Received: 06-10-2018  
Accepted: 08-11-2018

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## A critical review of manifestations and perceptions on colonialism

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### Abstract

The critical review of Manifestations and Perceptions on Colonialism in *Globe and India* examines the diverse impacts and interpretations of colonialism across different contexts. The colonial rule shaped socio-economic structures, legal systems, and cultural perceptions in India and globally. It critiques the often Eurocentric narratives that overshadow local experiences and responses to colonialism. The review underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of colonial legacies, recognizing both the global patterns and specific regional manifestations. By analysing various scholarly perspectives, it aims to offer a more comprehensive view of how colonialism continues to influence contemporary issues.

**Keywords:** Colonialism, practice, communities, influence contemporary issues, critical review

### Introduction

Colonialism, a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, has had a profound and lasting impact on the global landscape, shaping the socio-political, economic, and cultural dynamics of nations and regions around the world. The legacies of colonial rule, both tangible and intangible, continue to shape the lived experiences of individuals and communities, often manifesting in the form of neo-colonialism, colonial institutions, and colonial mentality (Amuzie Chimeze, 1975) <sup>[6]</sup>.

The postcolonial condition, as explored by scholars, is characterized by the "histories of the collisions between the natives and the European communities" (Adeyemi *et al.*, 2016) <sup>[5]</sup>, where the colonized nations are subjected to a position of inferiority, leading to the emergence of postcolonial theory as a means to address the complex and often contested terrains of identity, power, and resistance. (Adeyemi *et al.*, 2016) <sup>[5]</sup> The colonial encounter has left an indelible mark on the psyche of the colonized, as evidenced by the concept of "postcolonial psychosis", which highlights the traumatic and disruptive effects of colonial domination on the mental and emotional well-being of the colonized peoples (Adeyemi, Olusola Smith, Bisiriyu, Adeyemi Kabir and Abarowei Felicia, 2016) <sup>[5]</sup>.

Scholars have noted that the legacy of colonialism has had similar effects in different places, with the "global South and the global North" remaining interconnected through "mechanisms patterned by the ongoing legacies of colonialism". These mechanisms, which include political and economic structures, have enabled the concentration of wealth and governance power in the hands of the global North, while the majority populations in the low-and middle-income countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America continue to face the consequences of this unequal distribution of resources and power (Clever F, Williams S & Leach M, 2018) <sup>[9]</sup>.

Colonialism is a practice and policy by which a country establishes and maintains control over a foreign territory or people, often exploiting them for economic gain and asserting dominance over their culture, politics, and society. The scope of a review of colonialism typically includes an examination of its various forms and manifestations across different media.

### Different forms of colonialism

Colonialism can manifest in various forms, each characterized by different methods and objectives of domination and control.

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Understanding these forms helps in analysing the diverse impacts of colonial rule across different regions and historical contexts. Here's an elaboration on several forms of colonialism.

### 1. Settler Colonialism

Settler colonialism involves the migration of settlers to a new territory with the intent of establishing a permanent presence and often displacing the indigenous population. This form of colonialism is marked by the establishment of colonies where settlers dominate the land and its resources, leading to profound changes in local societies. Patrick Wolfe's article explores the dynamics of settler colonialism, focusing on how settler societies attempt to eliminate indigenous populations through various means, including land dispossession and cultural assimilation (Wolfe P, 2006) <sup>[32]</sup>.

### 2. Extractive Colonialism

Extractive colonialism is characterized by the exploitation of a colony's natural resources for the benefit of the colonizing power. This form of colonialism primarily focuses on resource extraction, such as minerals, agricultural products, or labour, without establishing a permanent settlement or deeply integrating with the local society (Hopkins AG, 1973) <sup>[17]</sup>. A. G. Hopkins provides an analysis of how European powers exploited West African resources and economies during the colonial period, illustrating the principles of extractive colonialism and its impact on local economies and societies.

### 3. Administrative Colonialism

Administrative colonialism refers to a system where the colonial power establishes administrative control over a territory without significant settlement or resource extraction. The focus is on governance, legal systems, and administrative management, often using local elites or existing structures to maintain control (Houghton SEKM, 1966) <sup>[18]</sup>. Houghton's book discusses how the British Empire managed its colonies through various administrative systems, focusing on the governance structures and policies implemented to control and manage different territories.

### 4. Economic Colonialism

Economic colonialism involves the control of a colony's economy by the colonizing power, often through mechanisms such as monopolies, trade restrictions, and economic policies that favour the colonizer's interests. This form of colonialism is less about territorial control and more about economic domination (Hall C, 2002) <sup>[15]</sup>. Catherine Hall examines how economic interests and racial ideologies shaped British colonial policies and economic practices, providing insight into the dynamics of economic colonialism and its impact on both the metropole and the colonies.

### 5. Cultural Colonialism

Cultural colonialism involves the imposition of the colonizer's culture, values, and norms on the colonized society. This form of colonialism often seeks to undermine or replace indigenous cultures and languages with those of the colonizer (Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o., 1986) <sup>[27]</sup>. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's work addresses how colonial powers imposed their languages and cultures on African societies, leading to

the marginalization of indigenous languages and cultural practices.

These forms of colonialism illustrate the various methods by which colonial powers exerted control over different regions, each with distinct impacts on the political, economic, and cultural landscapes of the colonized societies.

### Colonialism and its historical development

Colonialism, a practice where powerful countries establish control over other lands and peoples, has been a significant force in world history. It involves the expansion of a nation's influence through settlement, economic exploitation, and political dominance.

### Early Colonialism

Early forms of colonialism can be traced back to ancient civilizations such as the Greeks and Romans, who established colonies around the Mediterranean (Kagan, D., 2009) <sup>[19]</sup>. However, the modern era of colonialism began in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century with European exploration and the Age of Discovery. Notable figures like Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Ferdinand Magellan embarked on voyages that led to European dominance over large parts of Africa, Asia, and the Americas (Ferguson N, 2003) <sup>[14]</sup>.

### The impact of colonialism

The impact of colonialism has been profound and multifaceted. Economically, colonial powers often exploited the resources and labor of colonized regions. This led to significant economic benefits for the colonizers while undermining the local economies (Pomeranz, K., 2000) <sup>[28]</sup>. Politically, colonial rule frequently disrupted traditional governance structures and imposed new systems that served the interests of the colonizers (Said EW, 1978) <sup>[3]</sup>. Socially and culturally, colonialism resulted in the suppression of indigenous cultures and languages. Colonial policies often sought to impose the colonizer's culture and values, leading to long-term cultural changes and conflicts (Spivak GC, 1988) <sup>[31]</sup>. The legacy of these practices continues to affect post-colonial societies today.

### The Decline of Colonialism

The 20<sup>th</sup> century witnessed a significant decline in colonialism, driven by various factors including anti-colonial movements, international pressure, and changing economic conditions. The end of World War II marked the beginning of decolonization, as many colonies gained independence through both peaceful negotiations and armed struggles (Fanon F, 1963) <sup>[13]</sup>. The process of decolonization reshaped global politics and led to the emergence of new nations and national identities.

### Colonialism Region wise

#### Europe

European colonialism began with the Age of Discovery in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, led by Spain and Portugal. Spain and Portugal established extensive empires in the Americas, Africa, and Asia, exploiting resources and labor. Britain, France, and the Netherlands joined the colonial race, building their own empires in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. European powers imposed new administrative systems and cultural norms on their colonies, often at the expense of indigenous traditions. The competition among European

powers led to conflicts both in Europe and in the colonies (Ferguson N, 2003) <sup>[14]</sup>.

### Africa

The "Scramble for Africa" in the late 19th century saw European nations divide the continent among themselves with little regard for existing ethnic or cultural boundaries. Colonizers, such as Belgium in Congo and Britain in Egypt, exploited Africa's resources and labor, leading to widespread economic and social disruption. Artificial borders drawn during the colonial era often ignored ethnic and cultural divisions, contributing to ongoing post-independence conflicts. The legacy of colonial exploitation includes significant economic challenges and underdevelopment in many African countries (Hochschild A, 1998) <sup>[16]</sup>. The struggle for independence in Africa was marked by both peaceful negotiations and violent uprisings (Meredith M, 2005) <sup>[23]</sup>.

### Asia

European colonialism in Asia began with the Portuguese in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and was followed by Dutch, French, and British expansion. The British East India Company established control over large parts of India, imposing economic policies that favored British interests. French colonialism in Indochina and Dutch control in the East Indies also had profound impacts on local economies and societies. Japanese imperialism in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century further reshaped the region, with Japan annexing Korea and parts of China. The end of colonial rule in Asia led to complex political transitions and the emergence of new nation-states (Pomeranz K, 2000) <sup>[28]</sup>.

### The Americas

Spanish and Portuguese explorers began colonizing the Americas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, with devastating effects on indigenous populations. European settlers established colonies that drastically altered the region's social and economic landscapes. British and French colonialism in North America led to the establishment of new political and economic systems, including the creation of the United States and Canada. The transatlantic slave trade, driven by colonial demand for labor, had a profound impact on the demographic and social structure of the Americas. The independence movements in Latin America and North America led to the end of colonial rule but left lasting legacies of inequality and conflict (Crosby AW, 2003) <sup>[11]</sup>.

### Oceania (Australia & New Zealand)

British colonization of Australia and New Zealand began in the late 18th century, leading to the displacement of indigenous peoples. European powers, including France, also established colonies in the Pacific Islands, often disrupting local cultures and economies. The introduction of new diseases and the imposition of foreign governance structures had severe impacts on indigenous communities. In Australia and New Zealand, the colonial legacy includes ongoing debates about land rights and cultural preservation. The post-colonial period in Oceania has been marked by efforts to address historical injustices and promote indigenous rights (Attwood B, 2005) <sup>[1]</sup>.

### Criticisms of historical colonialism

1. **Economic Exploitation:** Historical colonialism is heavily criticized for its economic exploitation.

Colonizers extracted resources and wealth from their colonies while maintaining minimal investment in local development (Pomeranz, 2000) <sup>[28]</sup>. This exploitation resulted in economic imbalances that continue to affect post-colonial societies, leading to persistent poverty and underdevelopment.

2. **Cultural Suppression:** Colonial powers often imposed their own cultures, languages, and religions on indigenous populations, suppressing and eroding local traditions and identities (Said, 1978) <sup>[3]</sup>. This cultural suppression led to the loss of indigenous knowledge and practices, creating a cultural void and identity crises in many former colonies (Spivak, 1988) <sup>[31]</sup>.
3. **Political Disruption:** The imposition of foreign governance structures frequently disrupted existing political systems and social hierarchies. Colonial administrations often favored certain ethnic or political groups over others, exacerbating internal conflicts and contributing to post-colonial political instability.
4. **Social Inequality:** Colonialism reinforced social hierarchies and inequalities, often placing colonizers at the top and indigenous populations at the bottom of the social ladder. This created entrenched social divisions that have persisted in many post-colonial societies, perpetuating inequality and social stratification.
5. **Environmental Degradation:** The colonial exploitation of natural resources frequently led to environmental degradation. Colonial practices such as large-scale agriculture and mining often disregarded environmental sustainability, resulting in long-term ecological damage that continues to affect many regions (Crosby, 2003) <sup>[11]</sup>.
6. **Legacy of Conflict:** The arbitrary drawing of borders by colonial powers often ignored ethnic and cultural boundaries, leading to enduring conflicts and tensions in post-colonial states. These conflicts are rooted in the colonial legacy of divided and contested territories.
7. **Health Impacts:** The introduction of new diseases by colonizers had devastating effects on indigenous populations, often leading to significant population declines (Hochschild, 1998) <sup>[16]</sup>. The health impacts of colonialism included both direct effects from disease and indirect effects from disrupted local health practices and systems.
8. **Psychological Trauma:** Colonialism has also been criticized for its psychological impact on colonized populations. The experience of subjugation and discrimination created psychological trauma that has had lasting effects on individual and collective identities.
9. **Economic Dependency:** Colonial rule often established economic systems that made colonies dependent on the colonizers for goods and markets. This dependency created economic structures that were difficult to alter post-independence, contributing to ongoing economic challenges.
10. **Resistance and Agency:** Critics argue that historical accounts of colonialism often overlook the agency and resistance of colonized peoples (Fanon, 1963) <sup>[13]</sup>. Colonized societies frequently resisted and adapted to colonial rule, and understanding this resistance is crucial for a comprehensive view of colonial history (Spivak, 1988) <sup>[31]</sup>.

## **Colonial India a case study**

Colonial India refers to the period when the Indian subcontinent was under British rule, from the establishment of the British East India Company's control in the 18th century until the end of British rule in 1947. This period was marked by significant political, economic, social, and cultural transformations. Here's a detailed overview of colonial India.

### **Establishment and Expansion of British Rule**

#### **Early Encounters and Expansion**

The British East India Company, established in 1600, initially focused on trade but gradually expanded its control over Indian territories through a combination of diplomacy and military force. Key events such as the Battle of Plassey in 1757 and the subsequent annexation of Bengal marked the beginning of significant British influence in India. The Company's rule expanded through a series of military campaigns and political alliances, laying the foundation for the British Raj.

#### **British Raj and Direct Rule**

In 1858, following the Indian Rebellion of 1857—a major, though ultimately unsuccessful, uprising against East India Company rule the British Crown assumed direct control over India. This period, known as the British Raj, lasted until 1947. Under the Raj, India was governed by a viceroy appointed by the British Crown, and the administration was characterized by a centralized bureaucracy and a legal system based on British laws (Ferguson, 2003) <sup>[14]</sup>.

#### **Economic Impact**

##### **Economic Exploitation and Industrialization**

British colonial policies had profound economic impacts on India. The British prioritized the extraction of resources and wealth for their benefit, leading to the development of infrastructure such as railways and ports that facilitated resource extraction and export. While some modernization occurred, such as improvements in transportation and communication, these developments largely served British economic interests and often disregarded local needs.

##### **Deindustrialization and Famines**

The economic policies of the British also led to the decline of traditional Indian industries, particularly textiles, which were outcompeted by British manufactured goods. Additionally, British economic policies contributed to frequent famines in India, as seen in the Great Bengal Famine of 1943, which resulted in millions of deaths due to food shortages exacerbated by wartime policies and administrative failures.

#### **Social and Cultural Impact**

##### **Educational and Legal Reforms**

The British introduced significant educational and legal reforms, including the establishment of English-medium schools and a legal system based on British law. These reforms created a new educated class that played a crucial role in the Indian independence movement. However, these reforms also often disregarded or undermined traditional Indian institutions and practices.

##### **Cultural Changes and Social Tensions**

Colonial rule led to a complex interplay of cultural influences. The British promoted certain social reforms, such as the abolition of sati (widow burning), which were

viewed as paternalistic and disruptive by some. The imposition of Western cultural norms and the promotion of English also contributed to social changes and tensions, as traditional Indian practices and values were increasingly challenged (Said, 1978) <sup>[3]</sup>.

#### **Political Consequences**

##### **Rise of Nationalism**

The colonial period saw the rise of Indian nationalism, with movements aimed at achieving political independence and addressing social and economic grievances. The Indian National Congress, founded in 1885, became a major force in the struggle for independence, advocating for self-rule and reforms. The demand for independence grew stronger during World War II, leading to significant political developments and negotiations.

##### **Partition and Independence**

The push for independence eventually led to the partition of India in 1947, creating the separate nations of India and Pakistan. This partition was accompanied by widespread communal violence and mass migrations, which had lasting impacts on the subcontinent's demographic and political landscape.

#### **Manifestation of colonialism in modern Asia**

World history in the 16th century has witnessed a great historical development in the modern world called colonization by the major European powers like Portuguese, Dutch, English, & French. These European powers began a process of colonization in Asia, America and later on in Africa and Established a new system of exploitation called Colonialism. Colonialism is the extension of a nation's sovereignty over a territory beyond its borders. Where the native populations are directly or indirectly ruled by the colonizing country, and dominated the resources, labour, and markets of colonial country for their benefit.

The term Colonialism may also refer as, "Domination or Explanation of power full country over the other countries." E.g.: England Dominated India & South Africa, USA, Australia etc. (England is a mother country where as India, USA, & South Africa are colonies) Colonialism may also influence Socio, cultural, religious, and other structures of the indigenous population. It is essentially a system of direct, political, economic, and cultural Exploitation and Domination by a power full country. The historical phenomenon of colonization is one that stretches around the globe. Colonialism is now defined as a systematic & baseless policy of Exploitation backward people by a large power (Powerful country). It is a system of oppression, Exploitation, racism and the like.

#### **History of colonialism**

"In fact colonialism dates back to 750 B.C where the Greeks began Expansion and setting the colonies in all Direction in the form of Territorial Aggrandizement" but the very fact that their policy of expansion of colonies is only for "prestige" not for economic gaining. The concept of colonialism is not a new phenomenon. It is as old as human ambitious as a conquer to rule over the other, people. The concept or the system called colonialism has been brought up from the word colony. The word colony is derived from the Greek concept called "Colonos" Which means, "A

movement and Settlement of acquiring countries systematically for their benefit.

The Portuguese, Spanish, English, Dutch, French, and other European nations began the colonization in the late 15th cent and resulted in the overseas empires in America, Africa and Asia. During the course of time these European power dominated over the Afro Asian and American. Firstly they exploited economically in terms of Trade & monopoly later they exploited is all structures of society, like politically socially, religiously & culturally, and this type of systematic Exploitation by European over the Afro-Asian & American people has been called in a new name as colonialism. This Europeans Exploitation continued till the 2nd world war.

### Structural features of colonialism

The Very structure of colonialism is differing from time to time and place to place first they were looking for raw material and market, then they established monopoly, which leads to internal control. Later and they established their political control and exploited systematically. The main intention of colonialism of 16th century modern times is to exploitation systematically to loot the country for their benefit. The European powers called them as an Imperialist believed that "A colony is existed for the benefit of mother country" Thus each colony acted as both "as a supplier of raw-materials and markets for their finished products (goods). As we mentioned above that there are various methods of control or Exploitation under the colonial system or under colonialism because the ultimate aim or goal of colonialism is to have systematically controlled over the colonial states of Asia-Africa and America. We found different types of colonial control in different countries by this European Imperialist such as (Bari S A).

**1 Colony:** As mentioned colony the word have taken from Greek concept "Colonus" which means "to occupy" or movement for permanent settlement. Colony thus nothing but a type or method of control to exploits the weaker country. In colony there are two types, is, (a) occupied colony (b) Settlement colony.

#### (a) Occupied colony

Under these types of colonialism a Dependent Society (Local Society) was totally controlled by the imperialist country, its Govt. was in the hands of officials of the imperialist state. Its social, legal, Educational, Cultural and even religious life was influenced and moulded by Imperialist (Alien) hands and its economy was structured to meet the needs of European capitalism. It is nothing but a complete subordination of a country by European imperialist the examples of occupied colonies are.

(b) **Settlement colony:** The main features of this colonization was the immigrants intended to establish societies as similar as possible to those they had left behind. The European intended to continue their culture in the colonies where they settle. They were not primarily concerned with the native people they found in overseas. Most of the settlement colonies were therefore established in those regions where the indigenous (local) people were relatively few or comparatively weak and easy access. Most of the early colonization's were settled colonies the best examples of settled colonies are. "The special features of this settlement colony were the creation of permanent and

distinctively European communities in other parts of the world called exclusively European Settlement.

### 2. Sphere of Influence

Another type or Method of control under colonial system, to exploit the native country called sphere of Influence. In this system of colonial experience, the native or local ruler with less power, permitted other colonial countries (European) to establish their political, Economic and legal power in some definite area. China and Iran where we could notice their political influence in their respective area, example. In China number of European countries had their influence including U.S.A and they made china as their sphere of influence therefore china was also known to the world as 'Hyper colony' or 'International colony' (D K Fieldhouse , 1981) <sup>[12]</sup>.

Iran was also under the sphere of European influence for their own benefit and exploited Iran's oil refinery etc. Here, a country been exploited or controlled by a greater number of countries politically and economically under the sphere of influence the power of native ruler was less he cannot have trading contact with any other countries and the like.

**3. Protectorates or Protected states:** This was one more method of control under colonial system, called protectorates. Here we noticed a kind of understanding between Imperial power and the Native ruler. It seemed to have voluntarily requested or accepted the 5 protection of another power (European) which promised to defend or protect native country against all other countries sometimes protection was arranged by treaty or by contract with a local ruler. The main purpose of the Imperial states of establishing a protectorate, rather than to establish colony, was to archive a 'Specific goal' without commitment to full control. The main aim to establish protectorate was to settle international friction (Disputes) concerning a particular country.

### 4. Mandates & Trust Territories

Countries in the First World War had lost their colonies; these former colonies were distributed among the victory nations like England and France. These former colonies then not treated as colonies but as mandates until the 2nd world war later called as Trust territories. Mandates resembled like protectorates, they came under the control of individual European states. This is another type of control exercised under the colonial system, the idea is to train the former colonies and make them to rule themselves, and to train these countries to have democratic system.

Under the mandate system the controlling power (Imperial power) has every authority over the controlled state. The protection of the controlled states depend on its imperial power, with this mandate system the European power established their colonial control. Example such as the early example of mandate was the Ionian Island which was put under British control in 1815 by an agreement between Russia, Australia, Prussia and England.

Modern mandate system dates from 1919 when the victorious allies of First World War agreed to take the colonies from defeated nations like Germany and Turkey, Distributed between allies but should not be 6 treated as colonies in order to avoid the exploitation. The League of Nations had the right to supervise these mandated territories through its mandated commission.

The common features of all the above-mentioned mandates were that they were subject to supervision by the mandates commission, to which the administering European powers had to send annual reports. The Commission had no power to investigate conditions within the mandates. After the establishment of U.N.O the mandated countries came under the supervision of Trusteeship council and called as trust territories. The council had and used power of investigation (D K Fieldhouse, 1981) <sup>[12]</sup>.

### 5. Crown colony

This was one more kind or method of control under colonialism, called crown colony in which the crown of England had the entire control of legislation and administration as distinguished from one having a constitution and representative Govt. Basically crown colony is nothing but a British colony directly under the control of the home govt. (Native Govt.) in London in the name of crown of England. The best Example of crown colony was the Singapore. Which was a crown colony of England recently it had been handed over to china.

### 6. Leased Hold Territory

It is one more feature of exploitation under the colonial system called leased hold In this type of colonial control (Listed hold territory) the entire control of civil administration legislation and political as well as economic control came under the Imperial power (European for a period of specific time. It is nothing but a native country surrendered her territory to the European power for a period of given time Example: Hong Kong was the only example of leased hold territory. China after the opinion was 1842 had given Hong Kong territory to England as leased hold territory 7 recently in 1997; England had given back Hong Kong to China. Thus Hong Kong came under the British control from 1842 and 1997 as leased Hold Territory.

In Ancient & Medieval World colonization had restricted only in expanding of territories for prestige. On the other land the modern concept of colonialism which began in the 15th century has the different motives or reasons. There are three motives for modern colonialism, they are political economic and cultural; reason for colonialism are manifold to expand territories, to seek mercantilist profit, to import cheap raw materials, and to extract the precious metals, The Political Motive of modern colonialism is territorial expansion, and aggrandisement of political power, The Economic motive is to get profit with trade, to strengthen their economy

The cultural motive of colonial system is the concept of white man's Burden, or white people supremacy example, whites are Supreme Being. They thought that white people were sent by god to the Asia & Africa countries to teach the non-white about civilization. & culture, like bring civilization to the un-civilized world and the like (Chandra Bipan, 1999) <sup>[15]</sup>

### Conclusion

After gaining independence, India faced the challenge of establishing a new political structure, often struggling with instability and the legacy of colonial administrative practices. Economically, post-colonial India worked to diversify its economy and reduce dependency on former colonial powers, though it encountered issues such as economic disparities and debt. Socially, there was a

concerted effort to revive and promote indigenous cultures and traditions. The legal and educational reforms aimed to reflect national values and needs rather than colonial legacies. Globally, former colonies sought to assert their sovereignty and reshape international relations, navigating the continuing influence of colonial economic and political structures (Chandra Bipan, 1999) <sup>[15]</sup>.

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