

## **Influence of colonialism on political geography**

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**Annotation:** The influence of colonialism on political geography is an important area of research in the field of political geography. Colonialism, which involved the establishment and maintenance of colonies in one area by people in another area, had a lasting impact on political, social, economic and cultural landscapes around the world. Through this article, you will see the impact of colonialism on the political structure of African countries; You can find out the influence of factors in the process of forming borders between states and colonies, as well as on the basis of colonialism and the environment-green imperialism.

**Keywords:** Industrial revolution, infrastructure development, new borders, new political systems, Green imperialism, geographical features.

The influence of colonialism on political geography is an important area of research in the field of political geography. Colonialism, which involved the establishment and maintenance of colonies in one area by people in another area, had a lasting impact on political, social, economic and cultural landscapes around the world. Here are some aspects to consider:

**1. Territorial boundaries:** colonialism often involved redrawing territorial boundaries and establishing colonial boundaries, which continued to shape the political geography of many regions, leading to border disputes and ethnic disputes in the post-colonial period.

**2. Political institutions:** the political systems and institutions that existed in many post-colonial countries were often established during the colonial era, and these structures continue to influence the political geography of these peoples.

**3. Natural resources and economic impacts:** colonial powers often exploited the natural resources of colonial countries with long-term effects. This led to economic imbalances and unequal distribution of resources in many post-colonial countries and influenced their political geography.

**4. Cultural and social influences:** colonialism has greatly influenced the cultural and social dynamics of many regions, often leading to the division of ethnic groups, and the legacy of colonial politics continues to shape social and cultural identities and political dynamics.

**5. Geopolitics:** the international geopolitical landscape was significantly shaped by colonialism, with former colonists retaining influence and strategic interests in their former colonies, often contributing to modern political conflicts and conflicts.

When studying the impact of colonialism on political geography, it is necessary to take into account specific historical contexts, colonial heritage and the ongoing dynamics of post-colonial societies. Research in this area can also explore the Modern Impact of anti-colonialism, decolonization processes, and colonial heritage on global political geography.

### **The impact of colonialism on the political structure of African countries**

The first European attempts to conquer territories in Africa began at the end of the 15th century. However, the real development of colonialism occurred only in the 19th century, when Europe experienced the Industrial Revolution and needed new resources for its economic development. Africa was attractive to Europeans with its natural resources such as Gold, Diamonds, ivory and other valuable materials. During the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, most of the European forces shared African territories. Thus began the period of active colonization of Africa, which lasted until the middle of the 20th century. The colony had a negative impact on Africa in many ways: economic, social and political. Economic damage: European countries have used African resources to produce and export. They created an exploitation system that deprived the local population of the opportunity to develop farms and use their resources.



The fragmentation of traditional communities led to the destruction of traditional communities and structures in colonial Africa. Europeans forcibly resettled the natives, forcing them to work on plantations or mines. Political subjugation: many African states lost their independence and became colonies of European powers. This meant that the local rulers were

replaced by European rulers and did not have full authority over their territories. Despite all the negative consequences, the colony also had a positive effect on Africa.

Infrastructure development: Europeans built roads, railways, ports and other infrastructure that contributed to the economic development of the region. Introduction of new technologies: in addition to colonialism, new technologies such as medicine and agriculture have also emerged that improve the lives of the indigenous people. Dissemination of Education: Europeans opened schools and universities in Africa, which allowed the local population to receive education and prepare for high-paying jobs. Despite the independence of most African states in the 20th century, colonial remains remain. Most of these countries continue to suffer from economic instability, political conflicts and social problems. However, Africa is gradually developing and growing economically today. Many countries have made significant progress in areas ranging from tourism to Information Technology. And in this we can see the xissas of other countries, especially China. African and Chinese relations are a separate topic.

Thus, colonialism had a major impact on the political geography of Africa. For several centuries, European powers such as Great Britain, France, Portugal and others colonized a large part of the continent. As a result of this process, new borders were established, colonial administrative structures were created, and new political systems were introduced.

One of the main consequences of colonization was the division of Africa into artificial borders, which did not always take into account the ethnic, cultural and historical characteristics of the population. The colonial government often enforced the borders out of their own interests and without taking into account local conditions. This led to the creation of states that coexisted with different ethnic groups, often with different languages, cultures and Customs. Colonial heritage

also influenced the political system of Africa. Many colonial powers have implemented their own political institutions and systems of government that do not always conform to local needs and Customs. After independence, many African countries continued to use these political structures, resulting in authoritarian regimes, corruption and political instability.

The colony also influenced the economic geography of Africa. The colonial powers used African resources such as oil, diamonds and other natural resources in their own interests. This led to the unequal development of resource use and economy in different regions of Africa.

In general, colonial heritage has had a profound impact on the political geography of Africa, creating complex ethnic, cultural and political problems. Modern African countries have difficulties in overcoming these problems and building stable and developed political systems.

We know that state borders are the main power of each state. In particular, it also plays an important role in the political geography of Africa. Because the border defines the territorial units in which the management and adoption of political decisions is carried out. The borders between African countries were established during the colonial period and reflect the interests of the colonial powers rather than the ethnic or cultural structure of the population. One of the distinctive features of borders in Africa is their correctness and disregard for ethnic, cultural or geographical features. This causes one ethnic group to divide along the border and be in different countries, which can be a source of conflict and tension.

Borders can also be a source of conflict due to disputed territories or border sources. Some African countries have long-term disputes with neighboring countries over disputed territories, such as border islands or regions with rich resources. However, despite the problems with borders, they can also play a positive role in the political geography of Africa. Borders help to establish legal and political foundations for the management of territory and resources. They can also contribute to the development of national identity and consciousness, which is important for the formation of a single state and nation.

In general, the borders of the state in Africa are complex and multifaceted. They reflect the historical and political processes associated with colonialism and can be a source of conflict and tension. However, they play an important role in the management of territory and resources, as well as the formation of national identity and consciousness.

### **Influence of factors in the process of forming borders between states and colonies**

The formation of the borders of states and colonies is a complex and long process that determines the political map of the world. Borders are political sections that hide not only geographical, but also territorial and national interests. Understanding and studying the history of the formation of boundaries helps to understand why boundaries exist and how they affect the development of society and economy.

There are many reasons that can help shape the borders of states and colonies. One of the main reasons is competition and the struggle for ownership of resources. Countries and colonists sought to exploit natural resources such as oil, gas, precious metals, fertile land, or strategically important trade routes. As a result, new borders appeared on the political map of the world, and colonies appeared that gave their masters the opportunity to use resources. An equally important factor affecting the formation of borders is ethnic and cultural identity. Historically, people belonging to the same nation or ethnic group often seek to form separate territories where they can develop their

culture and traditions. Therefore, the boundaries between states and colonies often correspond to ethnic and cultural boundaries, which sometimes lead to conflicts and territorial disputes.

The borders of states and colonies were influenced by different causes and formed using different methods. They are areas of physical, political and cultural division that define the territorial boundaries of certain states. The formation of borders is of great importance for the statehood and sovereignty of each country. One of the main reasons for the formation of boundaries is geography. Mountains, rivers and oceans serve as natural barriers that determine not only the borders of states, but also their territorial characteristics. For example, the borders that run along the mountain ranges can be of strategic importance and serve as protection against enemies. An example of this is the border between Spain and France along the Pyrenees.

Political factors also influence the formation of borders. Changes in the balance of power, political disputes and wars can lead to changes in borders and the emergence of new states. Some boundaries are formed on the basis of historical territorial claims and national interests. For example, the eastern and Western Division of Germany after World War II. cultural differences and national identity can also serve as the basis for the formation of boundaries. Ethnic and socio-cultural differences can lead to the division and creation of new states or colonies. For example, the partition of India and Pakistan after independence from Great Britain. Methods of forming boundaries include contracts and arbitration courts. Treaties between countries can be concluded on the basis of negotiations and compromises, as well as with the participation of intermediaries. If the parties cannot reach an agreement, arbitration courts may be appointed to resolve territorial disputes.

Thus, the formation of the borders of states and colonies is a complex and multifaceted process that takes into account various factors, such as geography, politics and cultural characteristics. It is based on negotiations, agreements and agreements between different countries and interests.

We must also say that there are several factors that can be an obstacle to establishing borders in states. One of them is imperialism, while later geographical features are not affected by ethnic and cultural differences, nor by historical conflicts. That is, imperialism played an important role in the formation of the borders of the colonies. Colonial forces sought to expand their territories and possessions, leading to disputes over ownership of certain territories and, consequently, demarcation of borders. Geographical features can also affect border formation. Mountains, rivers and other natural obstacles can serve as a natural boundary between states or colonies. Historical conflicts between peoples and states can also affect the formation of the border. Some boundaries were established after the end of the conflict or as a result of contracts that provided for the separation of territory.

### **Colonialism and the environment-green imperialism**

The term "ecological imperialism" helps historians explain the social and economic consequences of converting the colonies' natural resources into goods and raw materials for the metropolis industry. American environmental historian Alfred Crosby introduced the term "ecological imperialism" to refer to the successful European colonization of temperate regions such as North America, South America, New Zealand and Australia. According to Crosby, the success of the European colonial expansion, which began in 1500 BC, has a strong ecological aspect. He said, "European immigrants and their descendants meet everywhere, which requires explanation". White European settlers moved plants and animals into temperate zones thousands of kilometers

from Europe to make the new territories suitable for European farmers and settlements. Crosby introduced the term "Columbian Exchange" to describe the large-scale movement of flora and fauna from Europe to the new world. The term refers to the ecological impact of geographical expeditions by Christopher Columbus and other modern European sailors and naturalists that led to the transformation of the world's biosphere for the benefit of rich European countries. He noted that European invaders can successfully develop their colonies by introducing European plants, animals, pathogens and weeds. Crosby studied the large-scale transformation of New World Ecology and society and created colonies for white Europeans to increase their European Homeland.

Crosby observed that the effects of European colonial expansion varied significantly in old and New World ecological experiments. He argued that the impact of European colonization on new world regions such as Canada, Australia and New Zealand was primarily ecological, as it made significant changes to the complex of diseases, plants and animals, and as a result, disrupted the Socio-Ecological Life of the local population. On the other hand, Europeans could not create Neoeuropea in Asia and Africa due to the population density and the power of centralized states. However, Europeans could successfully develop political domination to use local knowledge and commercialize rich landscapes. At the same time, historians have criticized Crosby's approach, which sees ecological imperialism as a turning point in ecological history. For example, early modern environmental historian Richard Grove said that "the hypothesis of purely destructive environmental imperialism, a complete break with the pre-colonial past, cannot withstand criticism at all" .. Grove introduced the term "green imperialism" to refer to the Asian and African context of European colonial expansion. Instead of seeing ecological imperialism as a one-sided process of applying European plants, animals and knowledge, Grove saw imperialism as a two-sided process of interaction and Exchange. Analyzing the early colonial development of the Imperial Botanic Garden and the formation of Botany as a modern scientific discipline, Grove's local knowledge influenced European understanding of nature. For example, Grove noticed that Alexander von Humboldt, a prominent 18th-century European botanist and explorer, was studying the botanical knowledge of the indigenous peoples of India. South Asian environmental historians have published several important studies in the last forty years to explain the concept of "green imperialism". They studied how forestry, agriculture, irrigation techniques, changing farming models, hydraulic environments, and Fisheries were destroyed in the colonized areas. It should be noted that the ecological transformation of the colonies coincided with the industrialization of production in metropolises. Large-scale monoculture cultivation of commercial crops, capitalist mining and the mass development of railway infrastructure in the colonies allowed European capitalists to supply raw materials, food and energy to the metropolis industry. Colonial entrepreneurs and planters modified the colonial landscapes to turn them into sugar, indigo, cotton, rubber and tea plantations and mines. The colonial project of commercialization of Natural Resources led to the mass extinction of endemic plant and animal species. Large-scale monocultural cultivation of commercial crops such as cotton, tea, sugar and hemp has led to the extinction of plants and animals and the extinction of the biosphere. Traditional sources of livelihood of farmers, ranchers and fishermen, based on thousands of varieties of plants and animals, have lost their livelihood. Low-income people were converted to slavery or forced to work in dangerous conditions on plantations. Changes in the ecosystem have also led to the spread

of epidemics such as cholera and malaria. Environmental historians use the term "environmental imperialism" to assess the totality of the social and environmental experiences of European rule.

### **Conclusion**

The former colonists established the Eurocentric capitalist model of modern development, which spread throughout the world in 500 years. The development of the modern industrial economy in Europe and America occurred at the expense of their colonies. It became clear that the long-term consequences of this global capitalist model began to affect the entire planet in the form of climate change. Former colonists must admit that they are responsible not only for the majority of carbon dioxide emissions, but also for creating an unsustainable system against the will of millions of people. The location of the world colonial empires in historical, political, economic, environmental and geographical conditions determines the obligations of the former imperial state to the former colonies. Since their former colonies will bear most of the negative consequences in the coming decades, these forces must fulfill this obligation in order to create a stable global system, and not in words, at a semi-annual conference.

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