Colonialism and Postcolonialism

Dr. Sangita T. Ghodake
"We have eyes, but we don't see. We have ears, but we don't hear. We can read, but we don't understand what we read."
COLONIALISM: THE COLONIES

- Life in the Colony
- Period of Colonization: 15th to 20th Century
- Temporary Inhabitation of foreign rule became Permanent
- Imposition of Language, Religion and Culture
- Political domination of one population on the other
- Rudyard Kipling: East is east and west is west and never the two ends will meet.
- Tempest: Caliban and Prospero relationship
MOTIVES BEHIND COLONIALISM

- Slave Trade and Business
- Source for Raw Materials
- Missionary Activities
- Military and Naval Bases
- Social and Economic Opportunities
- European Nationalism
- Humanitarian Reasons
- Spread of Religion and Imposition of Culture
Macaulay’s Minutes

- I have travelled across the length and breadth of India and I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief! Such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral values, people of such caliber, that I do not think we would ever conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone of this nation, which is in her spiritual and cultural heritage ... and therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture. For if the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem, their native culture, and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation.
Conflicts

- Colonizer Vs. Colonized
- Superior West Vs. Inferior West
- Racialism, Regionalism, Religious Consciousness
- The center Vs. the Margin
- The Orient and the Other
- Diaspora and Expatriation
- Homogeneity Vs. Heterogeneity
- Pure Vs. Hybrid
- Native culture Vs. Foreign Culture
Movements

- Decolonization
- Nationalism
- Neocolonialism
- Globalization
Decolonization

- Freedom Struggle Movement
- Coming out of the Colonial Psyche
- Neocolonialism: Internal and external socio-economic tensions
The Decline of Colonial Power
Postcolonialism

- The term “Postcolonial” refers to the nations formerly colonized (mainly) by Britain, France and other European countries.

- Intellectual discourse that deals with conflicts, issues and reactions to colonial or anti-colonial mind-set.

- Applicable to anthropology, architecture, philosophy, film, political science, geography, sociology, psychology, religious and theological studies, literature etc.

- Includes the cultures affected by the imperial forces from the moment of colonization to the present day.
POSTCOLONIALISM

- THEORISTS
  - Franz Fanon: The Wretched of the Earth
  - Ashish Nandy: The Intimate Enemy
  - Edward Said: Orientalism
  - Dr. Homi Bhabha: The Location of Culture
  - Gayatri Chakraverti Spivak: Can Subaltern Speak?
Aftermath of Second World War

- Unhomeliness or Exile
- Defeat of Dictatorship
- Decline of Colonial Powers
- The Rise of Superpower
- Challenge of Terrorism
- Fear or Nuclear War
- Beginning of Cold War
- Beginning of a New Man
- Thirst for Peace
Globalization

- World: A Glocal Village
- Process Whereby World is made into single place with systemic differences
- Deconstructing all types of isms, impositions and inequalities
PERMANENT MEMBERS OF VETO POWER

The BIG 5
- United States.
- United Kingdom.
- France.
- Russia.
- Nationalist China (Taiwan) until 1972.
First, Second, & Third Worlds with a North-South Divide
ISSUES

- Imperialism
- Nationalism
- Hybridity
- Notarization
- Diaspora
- Identity Crisis
- Multiculturalism
- Creolization
- Anglicization
Concept of A New Man

- A Citizen of a Glocal Village
- Cosmopolitan Cultural Identity
- Vasudhaiwa Kutumbakam
- Equality, fraternity, brotherhood
- World without evils
Rabindranath Tagore

Where the mind is without fear and
The head is held high;
Where knowledge is free,
Where the world has not been broken
Up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of truth...
Where the clear stream of reason desert
Sand of dead habit
Into that heaven of freedom, my father
Let my country awake.
A Passage to India: E. M. Forster (1924)

- A Colonial and Postcolonial text
- Theme: East vs. west, Oppressor vs. Oppressed
- Narration: Omniscient
- Plot: The white young lady from England accuses a Muslim middle aged male from India as being raped but is found a patient of depressive psychosis and Dr. Aziz is proved innocent and thus gets the verdict.
- Characterization: Some English personas stand for sophistication and Indians are subalterns and marginalized voices
A Passage to India: A Postcolonial Text

- Who am I? What is my real identity?
- What language do we speak?
- What culture do we follow?
- Which religion is the best religion?
- What is a home to me?
- Is the work pro/anti colonialist?
- Does the text reinforce or resist colonialist ideology?
- Who is the best-East or west?
- Should canonized text be rewritten?
- What reaction does a global citizen expect from the Third World?
Thank You