TRICONTINENTALISM IN V S NAIPAUL’S THE MIMIV’MEN
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OBJECTIVES

- Tricontinentalism
- European Imperialism
- Decolonization and Postcolonialism
- Neocolonialism
- Globalism
DIVISION OF THE PRESENTATION

- Colonization in America, Africa and Asia
- Issues in Postcolonial Literature
- Tricontinentalism
- Globalism
Colonial powers, 1816

The borders shown are today's borders. It would be preferable to show the historical borders and the changes over time; the current solution is a limitation of our technical framework that cannot (yet) show border changes.

Source: Colonial Regimes - Minner and Wim (2006)
COLONIALISM

Motives:

➢ Slave Trade and Business
➢ Source for Raw Materials
➢ Missionary Activities
➢ Military and Naval Bases
➢ Social and Economic Opportunities
➢ European Nationalism
➢ Spread of Religion
➢ Imposition of Culture

Life in the Colony:

➢ Period of Colonization: 15th to 20th Century
➢ Temporary Inhabitation of foreign rule became Permanent
➢ Imposition of Language, Religion and Culture
➢ Power Dynamics: Political domination of one population on the other
➢ Rudyard Kipling: East is east and west is west and the twain shall never meet.
➢ Tempest: (1611) Caliban and Prospero relationship
**COLONIZATION IN AMERICA**

**Colombus:** 1492, the Spanish explorer
- (1492-1810)
- The Spanish, the Dutch, The French and the English white settlers
- **Goal:** trade and business, military and navel base, government formation etc.

**Imperialism:**
- native population wiped out.
- native culture was forbidden.
- exploitation
- native history was rewritten
decolonization: late 18th century

Independence: 1783
President: **George Washington**
COLONIZATION IN AFRICA

Period: 1415 to 2017

Political Power: 1870

Colonies: The Portuguese, the Spanish, the Dutch, the Swedish, the Danish, the French, the English, the German, the Italian etc

The Portuguese and the Spanish: 2017

Goal: natural resources and slave trade

Decolonization: mid to late 1950s

Atlantic Charter: 1941

Imperialism: Ethnic Conflicts, Border Issues, Loss of Culture, Civil Wars, Capitalism
COLONIZATION IN ASIA

Asia: 15th to 2002

Colonies: the British, the French, the Dutch, the Russian, the Spanish, the US, the Japanese, the Ottamanese

India: Vasco de Gama, Portuguese

East India Company: 1800

Motif: Natural resources, trade and business

Decolonization: 20th century

Imperialism: Indigenous culture became hybrid
Slavery, Exploitation and Subjugation

Neocolonialism: After the rise of the Superpower
POSTCOLONIALISM

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

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

• Applicable to Anthropology, Architecture, Philosophy, Films, 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
Concept of Three Phases of Post-Colonial Criticism

- **Adopt Phase**: The writers and the critics follow the European norms and forms to describe their experience.
- **Adapt Phase**: The writers suitably modify the form and norms to their own specifications.
- **Adept Phase**: The writers become independent creative, and really ‘cross-cultural’ in expressing their experiences.
CONFLICTS

• Former Colonizer Vs. Former Colonized
• First World Nations Vs. Third World Nations
• Supposedly Superior West Vs. Inferior East
• Racialism, Regionalism, Religious Consciousness
• Post Empire, Post Apartheid Challenges
• The center Vs. the Margin
• The Orients and the Oxidants
• Diaspora and Expatriation
• Homogeneity Vs. Heterogeneity
• Pure Vs. Hybrid
• Native culture Vs. Foreign Culture
AFTERMATH OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

- Unhomeliness or Exile
- Defeat of Dictatorship
- Decline of Colonial Powers
- The Rise of Superpower
- Terrorism
THEORISTS

• Franz Fanon: The Wretched of the Earth, and Black Skin, White masks

• Ashish Nandy: The Intimate Enemy

• Edward Said: Orientalism

• Dr. Homi Bhabha: The Location of Culture

• Gayatri Chakraverti Spevak: Can the Subaltern Speak?

• Peter Barry: Beginning Theory

• Bill Ashcraft, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin: The Empire Writes Back

• Gabriel Marquez: One Hundred Year’s of Solitude
TRICONTINENTALISM

• Tricontinentalism: Robert Young in 2001.
• The Tricontinental conference in Havana, Cuba in 1966.
• A substitute term for the third world countries.
• Pramod Nayar in his book Postcolonial Literature (2008) defines tricontinentalism as,

“Young notes that since postcolonial discourse have emerged from the three continents of South America (Young continues to use the term ‘Latin America’), Asia, and Africa, tricontinentalism might be a more suitable term. Tricontinentalism represents what Young calls a ‘counter-modernity’ (2001: 427), rooted in anti-colonial struggles and political movements. Tricontinentalism: Transnational Theory of Political Context.
NEW GLOBALISM: POSSIBLE SOLUTION

• World: A Glocal Village

• Process Whereby the World is made into single place with systemic differences

• Deconstructing all types of isms, impositions and inequalities
V S NAIPaul: The Nobel Laureate (1932-2018)

• The third generation immigrant Aryan Brahmin family that had emigrated from India to The West Indies
• High school studies from the West Indies and Higher studies in England on scholarship in 1950
• Settled down in England and got married to an English lady
• Career as a writer in 1954: Novels, short stories, as well as travelogues
• An expatriate in London and an uprooted Trinidadian
THE MIMIC MEN

- A fictional island Isabella, situated in the Caribbean Sea.
- Multiracial and multicultural Groups of Indentured Labourers.
- The White Settlers: The English, the French, the Spanish, the Dutch, the Portuguese and other European countries
- Slaves from Africa, Asia and America
- The Asians: Ralph and his family
- The French: Deschampsneufs
- The African: Browne
- The British: Sandra
- Inter-racial marriages: Ralph-Sandra, Deschampsneufs’s daughter and a black boy
A WAY FORWARD:
'To be born on an island like Isabella, an obscure. New World transplantation, second hand and Barbarous, was to be born to disorder'.

• The culture of Isabella reveals mimicry, hybridity, conflict between the east and the west and sense of expatriation among these characters. Chandra B. Joshi that explains the cultural complications of the fictional society:

• "...neither Naipaul nor Kripalsingh is very hopeful about an organic, ordered and meaningful society developing out of the mixture of races and creeds, out of groups of people bound neither to each other, nor to the land. It was and would remain a society, 'Fragmented, inorganic, no link between man and the landscape, a society not held together by common interests.'" (Joshi 1994:169)
REFERENCES


Ambedkar, B. R. *The Untouchables: Who were They and Why They Became Untouchables?*. New Delhi: Amrit, 1948


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tricontinental
THANK YOU