



**NARAJOLE RAJ COLLEGE**  
(NAAC Accredited B Grade Govt. - Aided College)  
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Department of Political Science

*3<sup>rd</sup> Semester*

*paper C5T*

*Topic : Historical context of modern government*

*C. Colonialism and decolonization: meaning, context, forms of colonialism; anti-colonialism struggles and process of decolonization*

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### *Colonialism : concept, meaning and forms*

Etymologically, the word "colony" comes from the Latin "colonia—"a place for agriculture".

According to Oxford Dictionary, Colonialism originated from the Latin word colonia meaning a country or state. But gradually it acquired the meaning of such an estate deliberately settled among foreigners.

The Oxford Dictionary of Politics writes, "The policy and practice of a stronger power extending its control territorially over a weaker nation or people."

Collins English Dictionary defines colonialism as "the policy and practice of a power in extending control over weaker peoples or areas

*Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary* defines colonialism as "the system or policy of a nation seeking to extend or retain its authority over other people or territories.



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Imposing of colonisers' religion, language, economic and socio-cultural practices over the people of colonies, are the basic features of colonialism. The colonial rulers used to rule the territory in pursuit of their interests, seeking to benefit from the colonised region's people and resources.

Colonialism has a long history starting with the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans who all built colonies in antiquity .

Modern colonialism started with the Portuguese **Prince Henry the navigator**, initiating the Age of Exploration. Gradually other European States like Spain, France, Great Britain, Germany and others followed colonialism and built colonies all over the world, specifically in Asia, America, Africa.

Historian Philip Hoffman calculated that by 1800, before the Industrial Revolution, Europeans already controlled at least 35% of the globe, and by 1914, they had gained control of 84 % of the globe.





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Map of colonial and land-based empires throughout the world in 1914 CE.



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### ***Forms of colonialism:***

Colonialism have been classified into *four forms*, these are

1. **Settler colonialism** : It is characterized by huge immigration motivated by religious , political or economic reasons. . It was aimed at largely to replace any existing population. Australia, Canada, the United States, and Israel are typical examples of settler-colonial societies.

2. **Exploitation Colonialism** : It was aimed at the exploitation of natural resources or population as labour or slave, exclusively for the benefit of the colonial State. Slaves were imported mainly to the USA.

3. **Surrogate Colonialism** : It was involved with settlement project supported by a colonial power, in which most of the settlers do not come from a same ethnic group as the ruling power.



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4. Internal colonialism : It is a notion of uneven structural power between areas of a state. People of a country are exploited by the people of their own country. For examples Black people are exploited by the whites in the USA.

### **Anti-colonialism struggles and process of decolonization :**

Anti-colonialism refers activities, movements and ideologies that opposed to colonial rule of one country by another.

As a self-conscious political movement, anti-imperialism originated in Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in opposition to the growing European colonial empires and the United States control of the Philippines after 1898.

During the mid-twentieth century and later, anti-colonial movements reached its highest level of popular support in the colonies and as a result ,national liberation movements took place in various forms.





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**Decolonization /decolonisation** is the undoing of colonialism

During the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the dismantlement of the colonial empires which were established prior to the world War I is known as Decolonization.

In fact, decolonization is associated with the movements in the colonies demanding independence.

These movements, and their anti-imperialist ideas, were instrumental in the decolonization process of the 1950s and 1960s, which saw most European colonies in Asia and Africa achieving their independence

Decolonization was inspired by the right to self-determination that was identified as the fundamental right by the UNO.

The United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization has stated that in the process of decolonization there is no alternative to the colonizer but to allow a process of self-determination..