

5. Post|Colonial Transitions

Episode 2: Colonialism and neocolonialism in South Asia

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Learning objectives

1. Create awareness about one of the biggest colonizing projects of the British empire.
2. Illuminate the colonial past of the largest democracy in the world.
3. Trace the effects of neocolonialism in South Asia.
4. Generate awareness about the aspect of colonial necropolitics and geopolitics in the subcontinent.

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- Psychological effects of rampant violence, discrimination, and misrule on the colonized population.

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- Bad harvest in winter crop of 1942.
- Occupation of Burma by Japan in 1942 resulted in restriction on rice imports from Burma.
- Restriction on inter-state trade of rice and other food grains.
- Wartime inflation.
- Panic hoarding of rice stocks by traders and farmers and speculative buying.
- Unregulated black market.
- No inaction on part of British authority to import more rice from abroad.
- Actions/inaction of the Wartime Cabinet.

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--The result is an estimated death of 3 million people.

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- Major power in the hands of transnational institutions e.g., banks.

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- India remains divided and occupied in fighting amongst castes and religions.
- The mind of the colonized is yet to be decolonized.

Neocolonialism in South Asia contd.

India's geopolitical situation has enabled foreign powers to divide and conquer the subcontinent:

- Geographical isolation of the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Eurasia.
- India has been involved in territorial disputes with her neighbors, China, Pakistan, and Nepal.
- India is the most populous democracy in the world.
- Constant challenges through unstable political situation, presence of strong separatist forces and regional autonomy in India.
- Constantly shifting localized systems and resistance to a central government (native or foreign).

India stayed under foreign authority from the 11th century until 1947.

Recommended literature

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