

**Colonialism:** Colonialism is a practice or policy of control by one people or power over other people or areas, often by establishing colonies and generally with the aim of economic dominance. In the words of Johnston (1994), means the establishment and maintenance of rule for an extended period of time by a sovereign power over a subordinate and alien people that are separated from ruling power. **In the process of colonization, colonizers may impose their religion, language, economics and other cultural practices.** The primary purpose for colonialism was undoubtedly by (i) **economic gain** and (ii) **to spread Christianity.**

Although the historical incidence of colonialism is most widely associated with dominance exerted by European countries, the process is not exclusive to them, for Russia, Japan and USA were also engaged in colonialism.

The most serious outcome during colonial era was the economic exploitation of the colonies by the occupying countries. Some have suggested that the form of global economic geography developed during colonial era favoured the industrial countries and played havoc with the colonies. After 1945, the rise of anti-colonial movements in the colonies as well as the economic crisis within an imperial system contributed towards the rapid process of decolonization.

**Neo-colonialism:** The concept of neo-colonialism is attributed to French Marxists of the late 1950s and came into popular use in 1960s and is described as **"The survival of the colonial system in spite of formal recognition of political independence in emerging countries which became the victims of indirect and subtle form of domination by political, economic, social, military, and technical forces"**. In certain cases, new-colonialism is not an entirely new phenomenon. Lenin observed that finance capital is such a decisive force in international relations that is capable of subordinating to it even states having complete independence.

Neo-colonialism simply means of economic and political control articulated through the powerful states of developed countries (**notably the USA, Russia, Japan, and collectively the member states of the EC**) over the economies and societies of the underdeveloped world. The dominated states are apparently independent and there is no formal or direct rule. But, in reality, their economic and political systems are controlled from outside (Johnston,1994). In other words, the "neo-colonialism" refers to the economic and political dependency remaining in

former colonies despite gaining independence from their colonial rules. However, the trade relationships in place during the era of colonialism were retained. The inequitable levels of socio-economic development that marked colonialism continued to plague the newly independent countries.

**Disadvantages of neo-colonialism:**

- i) Neo-colonial exploitation has perpetuated economic imbalance between rich and poor countries. Neo-colonialism has aggravated economic dependence of poor developing countries on rich developed states.
- ii) Neo-colonial powers have set up military bases in different parts of the world and that have geared military tensions and instability everywhere of the earth.

**Lebensraum:** Lebensraum is a core concept that Friedrich Ratzel developed in the first part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The literally meaning of **lebensraum is 'living space' or 'the geographical area within which living organism develop'**. In his book on ***Political Geography***, Ratzel equated a nation with a living organism and argued that a country's attempts at territorial expansion were similar to a growing organism's search for space in order to survive. Conflict between nations was presented as a contest for territory within which to expand, with the fittest surviving. The concept was appropriated by the German Geopolitik School in the 1920s and 1930s and used to justify the NAZI programme of territorial expansion. Hitler believed that new territories have to be acquired for settlement it means new territories would increase the areas of mother country. It would increase the material resources and power of German Nation. Hitler believed that Eastern Europe had to be conquered to create a vast German empire for more physical space, a greater population, and new territory to supply food and raw materials.

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