

**Forum: The Fourth General Assembly**

**Issue: The question of evaluating the responsibilities of ex-colonial powers on their previous colonies**

**Student Officer: Anmol Gupta**

**Position: Deputy Chair**

### **Introduction**

Colonialism is a practice or policy whereby people or power control other people or regions, usually through the establishment of colonies and usually with the goal of dominating the economy. During the colonial process, colonists can impose their religion, language, economy, and other cultural customs. Foreign managers manage the territory in pursuit of their own interests and seek to benefit from the people and resources of the colonized areas. It is related, but different from imperialism. Colonialism is closely related to the European colonial period that began in the 15th century, when some European countries established colonial empires. Some scholars refer to this point in history as the "Age of Capital" or the beginning of the Capital World. This is an era that includes a profit-driven era leading to climate change and global earth change. Initially, European colonial countries applied mercantilist policies aimed at strengthening their economies, so the agreements often restricted the colonies' trade with the metropolises (the country of origin).

However, in the mid-19th century, the British Empire abandoned commercialism and trade restrictions and embraced the principle of free trade with almost no restrictions or tariffs. Christian missionaries are active in almost all the colonies controlled by Europe,

because the metropolises are all Christian. Historian Philip Hoffman calculated that in 1800, before the Industrial Revolution, Europeans had controlled at least 35% of the land, and by 1914 they had controlled 84% of the land. During the retreat from 1945 to 1975, almost all the colonies gained independence and entered into a changed colonial relationship, the so-called post-colonial and neocolonial relationship. Although colonial experience varies greatly around the world, there are still several important themes. In most cases, the establishment of colonies is to establish and enrich the countries that control it. This accumulation of wealth takes many forms, from extracting precious natural resources which can be used to feed the colonies of industrial enterprises in the country of origin, to imposing trade restrictions and destroying local industry in countries. colonies, so that the colonies will become guaranteed domestic consumer markets for manufactured goods.

These colonial self-help efforts often led to the establishment of some type of social hierarchy, which allowed the colonial authorities to dominate and control most of the indigenous and other local groups with the support of military power. Often have terrible consequences for these people. Because the colonists often regarded the colonists as primitive and non-human, they were not eligible for the same rights and protections as the colonists themselves. Therefore, settlers confiscated the land and the houses of the locals were acceptable to , and sometimes even encouraged; enslaved them or forced them into some form of slavery by contract; They repressed their native culture and imposed their own civilized culture beliefs; it even wiped out most of the population. The experience of decolonization brought political independence to the colonies and is different in different parts of the world as well. Some colonies achieved independence very soon. For example , most of the Americas were decolonized in the 19th century, and the colonization of Africa and Asia was underway in .

Some colonies will achieve independence peacefully, while many only achieved independence through violent revolutions against colonial countries. However, the realization of independence did not end the unequal economic, social and political structure established under colonial rule. Since the local economies of many postcolonial countries have been completely repositioned as exporters of raw materials during colonialism, and there is little or no industrial infrastructure, many countries have worked hard to establish independent economies so that they can be like the old . Colonial powers have flourished. For example, an economist estimated that India's productivity before colonization accounted for 27% of the world economy, but after the British colonization, the productivity dropped to only 3%. In addition, the racial and ethnic social hierarchy established under colonialism still exists after independence. Many former colonial powers regard the poverty and underdevelopment that plagued post-colonial countries as another sign of 's inherent racial inferiority, rather than the result of 's destabilizing influence on their society caused by colonialism. In some post-colonial countries, social hierarchies are maintained, of which elites occupy the position of their first colonial masters to exploit their compatriots. One of the most shocking examples is South Africa during the apartheid period, in which non-whites were separated from a minority of whites, and deprived them of their most basic human rights. Today, many descendants of colonized people continue to face discrimination based on race and ethnicity at home and abroad. Due to the economic losses and the severity of human rights violations that occurred under the colonial rule of , as well as the multi-generational impact of these abuses on the descendants of the people of the colonies , many postcolonial countries and their defenders appealed to the former colonial countries Give compensation.

### **Definition of Key Terms**

## **Reparations**

An act of amends and compensation given to those who have been wronged usually in the form of a money payment

## **Atonement**

The act of putting someone or something under dominion or control.

## **Colonialism**

The policy or practice of obtaining total or partial political control over another country and the settlers who occupy that country and use it economically.

## **Economic dependence**

Economic dependence is an endless situation, under this circumstance, countries, economies and economic entities support each other for economic and non-economic reasons, as well as for various economic and non-economic factors.

## **Political dependence**

The degree of external dependence means that the weak countries are economically dependent on the global power structure of the strong countries, which allows the strong countries to exercise significant control over the economic and political behavior of the weak countries.

## **Expansionism**

Expansion policies or practices, especially the territorial expansion of a country.

## **Imperialism**

Imperialism is a national policy, practice or defense that expands power and government, especially through the direct acquisition of territory or political and economic control over other territories and people.

## Neocolonialism

In neocolonialism, developed countries control underdeveloped countries by indirect means. Neo-colonialism is widely understood as the further development of capitalism, which allows capitalist countries (countries and companies) to dominate dependent countries through the operation of international capitalism rather than through direct government.

## Containment

The act of keeping someone or something under control to further prevent more harm.

## Subjugation

The act of placing someone or something under domination or control.

## Economic depression

A depression is a severe and prolonged decline in economic activity. In economics, depression is generally defined as an extreme recession lasting three years or more or causing real gross domestic product (GDP) to fall by at least 10%. In a certain year. An example of an economic depression is the Great Depression of 1929, which lasted ten years and forced millions of people to lose their jobs, become homeless, and go hungry, while factories closed due to declining orders. Lack of money and resources was a major reason for European powers to attempt and colonize other nations.

## Key Issues

### **lack/no rules and regulations regarding the responsibilities of ex colonial powers**

According to the international laws and norms of today, do the ex-colonial

countries have obligations to provide compensation to the postcolonial countries? Since there are absolutely no rules and regulations about possible reparations that former colonial powers must pay, it really leaves those who are victims of colonization helpless and stuck. Without rules and regulations no country is obligated to pay in any form.

### **The impacts that colonizers have on nations environment and ecosystems**

The impacts that colonizers have on nations can be very severe and can cause a widespread scale of issues ranging from environmental problems to health and well being problems. An example of this is when Europe invaded America, the overhunting of wild beavers led to the mass extinction of the species in the region which led to the tumbling effects of impacting the food chain which caused significant problems for America.

### **Economic downfall that can be caused due to a colonization**

After colonizers leave countries, the often trend is leaving the nation in a state of zero economic activity and in an economic crisis. Without having a stable and healthy economy these countries cant successfully provide for a full nation which ends up leaving people to be stranded in terms of financial stability which has extreme impacts to not only the individual impacted but also the nation. An example of this is India after England left the nation. Without England, India was not able to continue with their extremely successful trading that they whilst undet the control of England. Without England, India was not able to work at the same level of success as before.

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### United Kingdom

The British Empire is the largest empire in the world in history. In the 19th century, Britain controlled large tracts of land in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, as well as Australia and New Zealand. For nearly 250 years, from the mid-15th century to its abolition in 1807, Britain played a key role in West African kidnapping, slavery, and human trafficking. Through forced trade and military power, as well as world-class innovations in technology, manufacturing, and engineering, it has become the most important superpower in the world. Today, about 10% of the British population comes from former colonies, and many of them may have ancestors who were enslaved. The Windrush generation is named after a ship that brought Caribbean immigrants to Britain in 1948. In the decades that followed, there emerged the rift between India and Pakistan in 1947 and the wave of South Asian immigration from East Africa. Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania became independent in the 1960s. Workers, refugees, students, CEOs, doctors, and soccer stars came from other parts of the empire. After World War II, Great Britain, which was severely damaged and in decline, needed workers to rebuild itself and still had obligations to many colonial subjects. Many British residents are unhappy with the newcomers. The 1970s saw the rise of racist organizations like the National Front. Violent bullying is a daily reality for many ethnic minorities. Chapter This Legacy Continues Many blacks and South Asians in Britain continue to face great disadvantage. In general, compared to whites, their housing is worse,

their school is worse, and the unemployment rate is higher. They are more likely to be incarcerated or die from Covid19. The data is clear. In 2018, the British government apologized for the wrongful detention of dozens of descendants of the Windrush generation (many of whom were born and raised in the UK), deprived of their legal rights, and even deported due to citizenship issues. All this means that for activists, the moral justification for compensation is clear. However, the United Kingdom has never paid any form of compensation, which is incorrect. The archival research of the Harvard PhD student Hardeep Dhillon reveals the extent to which the British finally compensated the victims of the 1919 Amritsar massacre in North India. The money is not much, a total of about 1 USD 30,000 at the time. (Approximately US\$400,000 today), distributed by nearly 2,000 victims and their families, but this may be the earliest example of payment of compensation to colonial subjects. The British government more generously compensated British businesses and families for their losses due to the slave trade. The Slave Compensation Committee, established after the abolition in the 1830s, distributed public funds totaling 20 million pounds to thousands of businessmen, accounting for 40% of the government's annual budget at the time. Historian David Olusuga pointed out that this was the largest government rescue plan before the 2009 financial crisis, and the last payment was not paid until 2015. A research team from the University of London on the British Slave Ownership Heritage Project analyzed and uploaded the committee's records; the project's website stated that they "provided a more or less complete survey of slave ownership in the British Empire." Arthur Lewis, Britain has received 200 years of free labor from more than 15 million blacks and people employed by India. This shows how the United Kingdom is definitely not opposed to reparations however they aren't very generous either in terms of the difference of payment that their own received compared to other nations.

## India

The British Industrial Revolution was based on the deindustrialization of India, the destruction of Indian textiles, and their manufacturing in the UK, using Indian raw materials and exporting finished products to India and other parts of the world. Bangladeshi handlooms produced and exported some of the most desirable fabrics in the world, especially cheap but exquisite fine cloths. The British response was to cut off the thumbs of the Bangladeshi weavers, break their looms, and impose tariffs and duties on Indian fabrics, while flooding India and the world with cheaper fabrics from the British new Satan steam factory. Weavers were reduced to beggars, and the industry collapsed; Dhaka, which was once the center of muslin production, decreased by 90%. Therefore, India is not a large exporter of finished products, but an importer of Britain, and its share of world exports has fallen from 27% to 2%. To India what matters is not how much compensation the UK should pay, but the principle of atonement. Two hundred years of injustice cannot be made up for with a certain amount. For example, India is happy to accept the symbolic pound sterling as an apology every year for the next 200 years. Perhaps the UK can return Koh-i-Noor diamonds to their country of origin in good faith. The Koh-i-Noor is very important to India, it was taken by the British during their rule over India and is considered to be one of the most valuable diamonds in the world. The return of the Koh-i-Noor would not help the citizens of India in any way. This shows that India is not looking for payment in money, they are looking for a payment of sympathy from the United Kingdom.

## Germany

The Treaty of Versailles (signed in 1919) and the London payment plan in 1921 required Germany to pay 132 billion gold marks as compensation to make up for

civil losses caused during the war. This number is divided into three types of bonds: A, B, and C. Among them, Germany is obliged to unconditionally pay bonds "A" and "B" totaling 50 billion marks (12.5 billion U.S. dollars). The payment of the remaining "C" bonds is interest-free and depends on the payment capacity of the Weimar Republic, which will be evaluated by a joint committee.

Due to lack of compensation in Germany, France occupied the Ruhr in 1923 to force compensation, which triggered an international crisis and led to the implementation of the Dawes Plan in 1924. The plan outlines a new payment method and raises international loans to help Germany fulfill its promise of compensation. Nevertheless, in 1928, Germany requested a new payment plan, which gave rise to the Youth Plan, which set the German maintenance requirements at 112 billion marks (26.3 billion US dollars) and established a payment schedule. Germany will complete the payment before 1988. The German economy collapsed in 1931 and maintenance work was suspended for a year. During the Lausanne Conference in 1932, maintenance work was completely cancelled. Between 1919 and 1932, Germany paid less than 21 billion marks for repairs. The German people regard compensation as a national shame; the German government is committed to undermining the validity and payment requirements of the Versailles Treaty.

## China

China is in a precarious position in the narrative of colonialism, playing the role of colonizer and colonized in the modern era. Therefore, is likely to remain neutral on this issue. Although it was never formally colonized, many of its port cities were occupied and controlled by European powers in the early 20th centuries, while in its eastern region fell under Japanese colonial control. Conversely, in the 20th century, China's annexation of Tibet<sup>28</sup> in and Russia's dispute over control of

Mongolia<sup>29</sup> and other surrounding areas were often regarded as China's colonial efforts. Despite these mourning roles, China has indicated that it is inclined to retain its annexed territories, and is trying to abandon its claims for compensation in exchange for 's recognition of its sovereign territory.

## Europe

Most European countries oppose comprehensive colonial compensation, because many are colonial countries with extensive empires outside Europe, so will be eligible to issue compensation. Some countries have agreed to apologize for colonialism , but still firmly refuse. Compensate their previous colonies. Possible exceptions are those Eastern European countries that fell under Soviet control during the Cold War. Some of these countries, such as Latvia, attempted to characterize the Soviet occupation as colonialism and expressed interest in as the successor of the Soviet state to obtain compensation from Russia for the damage suffered during the occupation.

## Russia

Russia's view on the issue of colonial compensation will largely depend on how it defines colonialism. This is mainly due to the difference between the colonial history of Russia and other European colonial powers. It has never colonized the area "south of the world", but concentrated its colonization of companies in the east through Siberia and today in Alaska. Furthermore, as mentioned above, the Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe and the Eurasian steppes is often viewed by the former Soviet bloc countries as an effort of colonialism. Russia has made great strides in , distinguishing itself from other former colonial powers and denying its colonial history. Instead, it maintains that its expansion is "through the peaceful and voluntary unification, not the empire of Europe". violent means used.

”Therefore, Russia opposes any claim for its own compensation, and strongly supports the efforts of the former colonies in the south of the world to seek compensation from other former European colonial powers.

### **Non Alignment movement**

The non-aligned countries are a group of approximately 120 UN member states, of which are not formally aligned with any other major powers. 4. Its members are usually developing countries. These countries used to be colonies, so most support colonial compensation. In the past 55 years, the group has been committed to ending colonialism and creating an international economic and political environment, which is more conducive to their needs as a post-colonial developing country. They are very active in the United Nations, and use this forum to approve General Assembly resolutions and through their organization and participation in global conferences on this topic, putting colonial compensation issues on the global agenda.

### **Development of Issue/Timeline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Outcome</b>
-------------	----------------------

**1820**

United Kingdom colonized Before South Africa was South Africa imperialized by the British, it was home to many different tribes living inland on the plateau. Zulu and Boer are two of these tribes. The tribe even has its own language. When Britain decided to imperialize the country, they seized all the resources and the land. They saw the economic potential of this country. What followed was an introduction to many parts of British culture. This includes an introduction to the English language, laws and regulations. Many of these ideals are an important part of South African culture today. The Boers, also known as Afrikaans, are descendants of primitive Dutch settlers from Southern Africa. When Britain decided to colonize South Africa, the Boers hated South Africa's Anglicization and Britain's anti-slavery policy. The battle began in the 1890s, by October 1899, it was an all-out war. By 1902, the British had ended the resistance of the Boers. The primitive people on earth are willing to fight for their beliefs, even if it means going to war. When the British imperialized South Africa, colonialism resulted in reduced local welfare and economic expansion. Hospitals and schools are built to allow more people to receive proper treatment for diseases, and people can read and write. farmers in southern Africa are battling problems like disease and plague. The Plague is The main crisis in South Africa because its economy depends on united commercial products. The extraction of highly demanded minerals such as gold and diamonds has led to economic prosperity, because these products are valued and

	desired by foreign countries.
--	-------------------------------

1857

The United Kingdom colonized British imperialism and had a great influence on India in the 19th India century. Because Britain modernized and industrialized India, India caused many economic recessions due to the lack of economic benefits brought by British rule. After the British occupation, the Indians gained the nation. Ideological consciousness. Control the Indian government and people. has a negative and positive influence in India.

**Negative effects:**

- The British government controls most of the political and economic power.
- Indian industries face restrictions. As a result, local handicrafts began to die out.
- The British pay more attention to cash crops and the like. As a result, food production fell and famine occurred throughout the country.
- The British opposed the religious beliefs and customs of the Indian religion. They want to spread Christianity.
- As a result of the emergence of a new culture, Indian culture and morals began to disappear.

**Positive impact:**

- One of the main achievements of the British government in India was the laying of the railway network. It is the third largest railway network in the world.
- The railway network helps India develop a modern economy and connect distant regions. In addition to the railway network, several major highways were built. - Other development projects include bridges, dams and telephones. The construction of dam
- solved the problem of water scarcity. As a result of the adoption of new disinfection methods, people's health has improved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The emergence of new schools and universities has increased the literacy rate.</li><li>- The British army ended the war between threat</li></ul>
--	--

### Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

European nations have recently started to donate money to nations that they had previously colonized such as India, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Tanzania. This effort made by European countries is to somewhat provide these nations a money reimbursement for what they lost. The UK has donated over 13 billion Pounds, to different nations that have been impacted. Other countries such as Belgium have also committed to do the aid of these nations being the 11th largest donor to nations.

### Possible Solutions

#### Utilization of the ICJ (International Court of Justice)

So far, one branch of the United Nations has not been used completely to help answer the question of colonial compensation, and that is the International Court of Justice (ICJ). ICJ represents the judiciary of the United Nations countries, is committed to resolving legal disputes between member states and provides advice to major UN agencies on international legal standards. In this forum, individual post-colonial countries can bring legal proceedings against the former colonial countries, as long as they are members of the United Nations, the damage occurred under the colonial rule. After reviewing the international legal precedents and the evidence of the case, the court will issue a binding judgment that will permanently

resolve the dispute between the two countries.

### **Requesting advisory opinions from post colonial states**

There are United Nations authorized agencies, such as the General Assembly or the Security Council, requesting advisory opinions on compensation to post-colonial countries. In this case, the International Court of Justice will consider the testimony of different agencies and member states of the United Nations, as well as any international laws or standards on the subject. Because these cases are advisory, any decision made in this forum will not be considered as binding on individual countries.

### **Creation of an ad hoc tribunal**

To establish an ad hoc tribunal independent from the International Court of Justice and which will hear all cases related to the colonial compensation issue. The establishment of a special tribunal of this type is rare, but is established by the resolution of the UN Security Council or by an international treaty, in which individual countries agree to abide by the decision of the court. Due to the global scale of colonialism and the number of potential cases from countries, groups and individuals seeking compensation for colonialism, it may be an appropriate forum to decide who is entitled to compensation and who in law is obliged to issue these indemnities.

### **Works cited**

**14 Caribbean nations sue European countries for slavery reparations," Aljazeera America, 27 September 2013**

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/9/27/14-caribbeannationssueeuropeancountriesforreparationsoverslaver.html>

**"14th Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement," UNISPAL, 16 September 2006,**

<https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/0E6B10A08491695E852571ED00534B7>

“Dr. Shashi Tharoor tells the Oxford Union why Britain owes reparations for colonising India in viral speech.” The Independent, 22 July 2015, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/homenews/dr-shashi-tharoor-tells-the-oxford-union-why-britain-owes-reparations-for-colonising-india-in-viral10407997.html>

“Book Launch Rana Behal,” International Institute of Social History, 4 December 2014, <https://socialhistory.org/en/events/book-launch-rana-behal?language>

, Stephen, and Alex Duval Smith, “Europe’s apology for slavery rules out reparations,” The Independent, 7 September 2001, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/europes-apology-for-slavery-rules-out-reparations-9194249.html>

. “Colonial Rule 1914” Ohio Wesleyan University, [http://cc.owu.edu/~rdfsusch/01\\_29.jpg](http://cc.owu.edu/~rdfsusch/01_29.jpg)

Achberger, Jessica, “Belgian Colonial Education Policy: A Poor Foundation for Stability,” The Ultimate History Project, “Colonialism,” Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 10 April 2012, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/colonialism>

“Decolonization,” The Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/decolonization>

General Assembly resolution on the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law [A/RES/60/147]” United Nations, 21 March 2006, <https://documentsdds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/496/42/PDF/N0549642.pdf>

OpenElement General Assembly resolution on the Charter or Economic Rights and Duties of States [A/RES/29/3281] 12 December 1974, republished online, [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=a/res/3281\(XXIX\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=a/res/3281(XXIX))

General Assembly resolution on the Programme of activities for implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent [A/RES/69/16]” United Nations, 1 December 2014, [http://www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/pdf/A.RES.69.16\\_IDPAD.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/pdf/A.RES.69.16_IDPAD.pdf)

Hickel, Jason. “Enough of aid – let’s talk reparations” 27 November 2015, The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/nov/27/enough-of-aidlets-talk-reparations>