Week 2
What is the “New Imperialism”? Part 2

Readings:


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Defining and Conceptualizing Imperialism

**Imperialism: Economic Determinants**

(J.A. Hobson, Rudolf Hilferding, Rosa Luxemburg, Nikolai Bukharin, Vladimir Lenin):

→ overaccumulation of capital
→ monopoly capitalism ⇒ imperialism.

→ quest for investment opportunities, raw materials, or sources of low-cost labour power

→ do not distinguish between direct and indirect control
Imperialism (Non-Territorial): Political Control

→ George Steinmetz: “a nonterritorial form of empire in contradistinction to colonialism as a territorial one, and...that the United States is by this definition imperialist”

→ “An empire can be defined minimally as a relationship ‘of political control...over the effective sovereignty of other political societies’”

→ “a form of political control of foreign lands that does not necessarily entail conquest, occupation, and permanent foreign rule” (see George Steinmetz, ed., Sociology & Empire)

Empire-building, 2 routes:
Non-territorial empires = imperialism
Territorial empires = colonialism
Colonialism

- Latin: *colere* (inhabit, cultivate, care for) + *colonus* (tiller of the soil)
- Colonialism vs. imperialism and settler colonization:
  1. Territorial takeover through conquest or purchase, seizure of sovereignty, durable foreign rule
  2. Does not necessarily involve the installation of settlers in conquered territories
  3. Organized around assumption of racial or cultural hierarchy

- Difference between colonialism and imperialism
- Acquisition of territory and legal authority over it, vs. political-economic ordering of space and claim of authoritative preeminence
- Imperialism cannot be distinguished from colonialism by its motives
- The difference lies in the character of the foreigner’s activity and the locus of sovereignty.
Question:

Imperialism vs. Neocolonialism; Colonist vs. Colonialist vs. Colonizer?

→ neocolonialism
→ Colonist
→ Colonialist
→ Colonizer

- foreign entity -
- usurps power -
- acquires local resources -
- ranks and reshapes local identities -
- determines political policies -
Are there contemporary colonies?
→ Territories, dependencies
→ Military bases
→ Export-processing zones
→ Expat settlement zones