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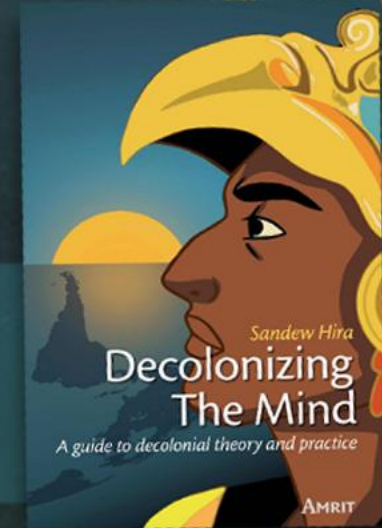
World Affairs

A decolonial analysis of current world affairs

The role of India



Decolonizing The Mind,
the final frontier of colonialism
with Sandew Hira



#010
8-11-2023

Topics

- ❑ Anti-colonialism in India: secular and religious
- ❑ India and the multipolar world
- ❑ Hindutva and Islamophobia
- ❑ India and Palestine

A history of struggle against British colonialism

- ❑ Colonization by a private company. India (India, Pakistan, Bengal) was owned and administered by East India Company, not by the British state from 1757-1857: private army, taxation, occupation, plunder and robbery of resources
- ❑ There was always resistance. First war of independence 1857 – British saw that as terrorism
- ❑ 20th century: struggle for independence based on Gandhi's strategy of building a mass movement on the principle of non-violence.

Secularism and anti-colonialism: socialism

- ❑ Socialist movement in India: impact Russian revolution of 1917
- ❑ Communist Part of India (CPI) formed in 1925. Split in 1964: CPI and Communist Party of India (Marxist).
- ❑ CPI in state government of Kerala
- ❑ Impact of socialism on Indian National Congress: Gandhi, Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose had a socialist profile. Indian National Congress profile of a secular party
- ❑ The preamble of the constitution of India describes India as a socialist secular democratic republic with central planning

Religion and anti-colonialism: Islam and Hinduism

- ❑ Islam: Syed Ahmad Khān (1817-1898) versus Jamāl ad-Dīn al-Afghānī (1838-1897): pro and anti colonialism
- ❑ Hinduism: Gandhi based his philosophy on Hinduism and was anti-colonialist
- ❑ Muslim-Hindu divide led to traumatic experience: the partitioning of India in Pakistan and India
- ❑ Problem of former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir: Muslim majority population ruled by India
- ❑ India: Kashmir is threatened by “Muslim” terrorist

One party dominance: Indian National Congress

- ❑ 14 August 1947: independence
- ❑ 1947-1996: INC in national government except 1977-1980 and 1989-1991
- ❑ Decline of socialism led to rise of other critical narratives
Western domination in the world: rise of Hindutva in India

Economic reform of 1991

- ❑ Till 1991 central planning was leading, not as strict as the Soviet Union: The state controlled many economic activities not by ownership of the means of productions, but by rules and regulation.
- ❑ 1991: End the public sector monopoly over many sectors. Foreign investors were allowed to invest in the Indian markets. The Indian private sector emerged with a new breed of entrepreneurs to take advantage of the opportunities. China reform began in 1978
- ❑ 2005-2021: 415 million people lifted out of poverty. China 800 million
- ❑ India GDP/PPP is \$ 10 trillion, China \$ 27 trillion

India and the multipolar world

- ❑ 1955: co-organizer of the Bandung conference: alternative to Western domination
- ❑ 2001: Co-founder of Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- ❑ 2009: Co-founder of BRICS 2009
- ❑ Cooperation with Russia, despite US objection
- ❑ Cooperation with US

India China relations

- ❑ Long running border disputes
- ❑ China relations with Pakistan problematic for India
- ❑ US/India alternative for Belt and Road initiative: 'India– Middle East–Europe Corridor' (IMEC). India, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Israel, France, Germany, Italy and the US will build new rail and shipping route.
- ❑ For the US and Israel: part of normalizing relations with Israel

Hindutva

- ❑ Hindutva is the ideology of the paramilitary organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the ruling party of India, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- ❑ Founder Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (1883-1966): *“Hindutva embraces all the departments of thought and activity of the whole Being of our Hindu race.”*
- ❑ *“Mohammedan or Christian countrymen who had originally been forcibly converted to a non-Hindu religion and who consequently have inherited along with Hindus, a common Fatherland and a greater part of the wealth of a common culture - language, law, customs, folklore and history - are not and cannot be recognized as Hindus. For though Hindusthan to them is Fatherland as to any other Hindu yet it is not to them a Holyland too. Their holyland is far off in Arabia or Palestine.”*

J. Sai Deepak: Hindutva is decolonial

- ❑ Book: *India that is Bharat - Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution.*
- ❑ “(a) Bharat’s indigenous identity must be traced to a period before the Islamic invasions (Middle Eastern colonialism) and European colonisation, and (b) ‘the Hindu religion’ was the glue that bound this civilisation.”

India and Palestine

- ❑ 1974: India became the first Non-Arab State to recognize Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
- ❑ 1988, India became one of the first countries to recognize the State of Palestine.

BJP reaction to October 7

- Prime Minister Modi: *"Deeply shocked by the news of terrorist attacks in Israel. Our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families. We stand in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour."*
- External affairs minister S Jaishankar: *"What happened on October 7 is a big act of terrorism. We all find terrorism unacceptable and we have to stand up on terrorism."*
- Nothing about 75 years of occupation and oppression
- Goal: two-state solution

Background of the reaction

- ❑ Terrorism and Kashmir
- ❑ Normalization of relations with Israel and Arab countries via India– Middle East–Europe Corridor
- ❑ Hindutva view on Islam
- ❑ Lost of historical injustice of Israeli occupation: on the wrong side of history

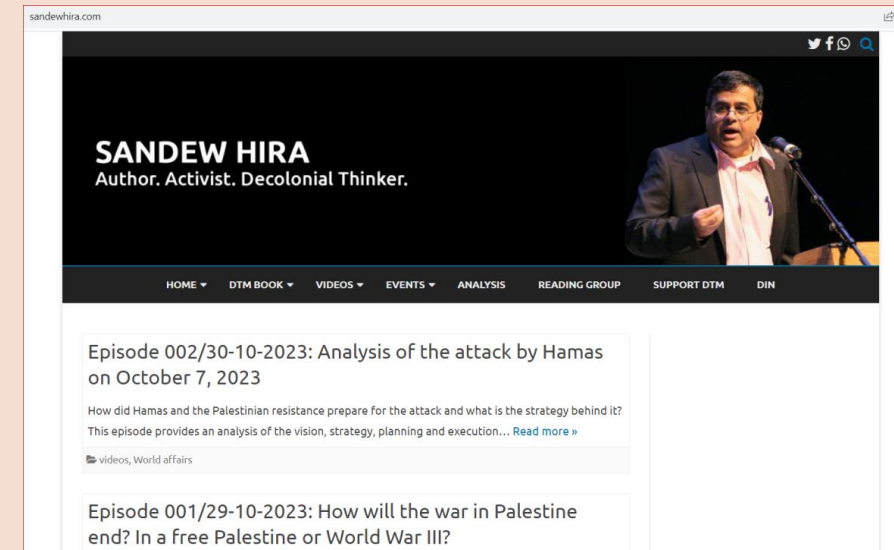
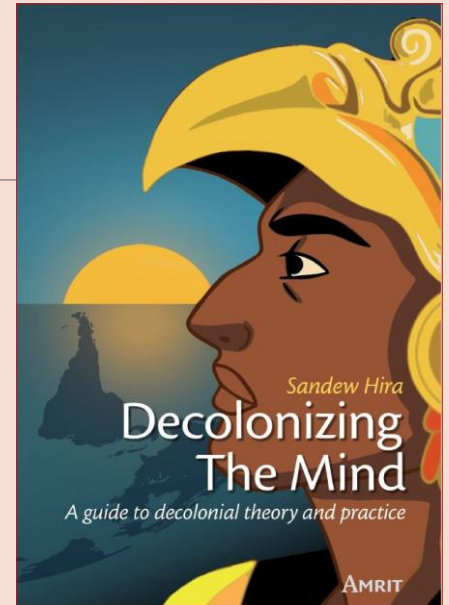
Next episode: the role of Saudi Arabia

- ❑ Saudi Arabia and the multipolar world
- ❑ Saudi Arabia, US and Israel
- ❑ Saudi Arabia and Iran
- ❑ Saudi Arabia and Palestine



Source in the DTM book

- 9.2.2.4 Indian economics
- 12.4.4.5 The Indian narrative on civilization
- Download the PDF of the PowerPoint on www.sandewhira.com



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