

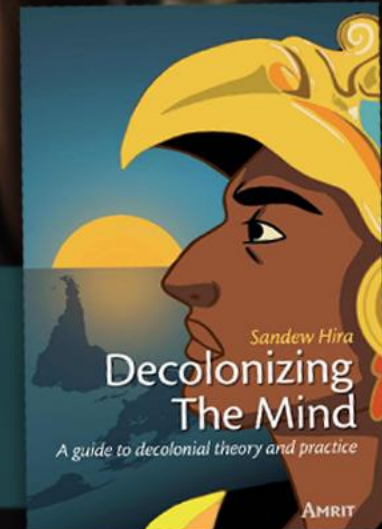
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What is decolonial theory?

The background, nature, strength and weaknesses of decolonial theory and practice

The current narratives about civilization: Europe/USA

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



#018

27-11-2023

The war of liberation in Palestine

- ❑ 15.000 dead, 10.000 women and children
- ❑ The truce agreement: victory of Palestine, no walk-over by IOF
- ❑ 300 tanks and other vehicles out of 1,600 have been destroyed
- ❑ North of Israel: Hezbollah steadily on the offensive
- ❑ West Bank: preparing for uprising despite arrests. Since October 7, 3,200 Palestinians arrested in West Bank
- ❑ Nov. 23: Iran FM visits Doha and Beirut: discussion strategy and war plans openly: possible scenarios regarding the war as well as the world's collective responsibility regarding *"the historic and determining development."*
- ❑ Nov 27: Erdogan and Raesi – common stand against Israel
- ❑ Hostages released are from Gaza City that is controlled by Hamas despite IOF invasion

The current narratives about civilization

- Europe/USA
- China
- Russia
- India
- Western Asia
- Latin Abya Yala
- Africa
- Oceania

Topics

- ❑ Eurocentric narratives of civilization
- ❑ The socialist interruption
- ❑ The end of history
- ❑ The clash of civilizations
- ❑ The grand chessboard

Colonialism as the white man's burden

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907. The poem is about the colonization of the Philippines by the US after the Philippine–US War (1899–1902) and was titled “The White man's burden”.

*Take up the White man's burden —
Send forth the best ye breed —
Go bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;
To wait in heavy harness
On fluttered folk and wild —
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,
Half devil and half child.*



The White man's burden

- ❑ Bringing development aid to the global south: investment, technology, culture, education
- ❑ Making Western knowledge production and education universal: every university is modeled on the West
- ❑ Proclaiming Western values as universal values: capitalism, individualism, parliamentary democracy, science
- ❑ Deliver them by any means necessary; war, lies, violence

The socialist interruption 1917-1990

- ❑ 1917: Russian revolution
- ❑ 1924: Mongolian People's Republic
- ❑ 1944 and 1949 – 11 socialist republics: Albania, Poland, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, North Korea, Hungary, China, and East Germany (German Democratic Republic).
- ❑ 1950 and 1989 – another 11 countries: Cuba, Laos, Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Cambodia, Congo-Brazzaville, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia and South Yemen.

Return to capitalism

- ❑ 1989 Cambodia, Hungary, Poland and Romania
- ❑ 1990 Benin, Czechoslovakia, South Yemen, East Germany, Mozambique and Bulgaria
- ❑ 1991 Somalia, Ethiopia and Soviet Union
- ❑ 1992 Mongolia, Congo-Brazzaville, Albania, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Angola.
- ❑ Remaining socialist countries: China, Vietnam, Cuba

The end of history: old wine in new bottles

- ❑ German Enlightenment philosopher George Hegel (1770-1831): *“History moves from East to West. History has arisen in the southeast, and it has subsided into itself to the northwest. The sun takes its course from morning to evening, and so we move from Asia to Europe, the West.”*
- ❑ Hegel in 1830: Europe is the pinnacle of human history, the end of history, or as Hegel puts it: *“the last stage in History, our world, our own time.*
- ❑ Francis Fukuyama (1952-): *“What we may be witnessing is not just the end of the Cold War, or the passing of a particular period of post-war history, but the end of history as such: that is, the end point of mankind’s ideological evolution and the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government. This is not to say that there will no longer be events to fill the pages of Foreign Affairs’s yearly summaries of international relations, for the victory of liberalism has occurred primarily in the realm of ideas or consciousness and is as yet incomplete in the real or material world. But there are powerful reasons for believing that it is the ideal that will govern the material world in the long run.”* (1989)

Nonsense presented as greatness

- ❑ Lack of imagination
- ❑ Not based on empirical facts but on wishful thinking
- ❑ Yet it is presented as a great intellectual achievement by the Western intellectual establishment

Western civilization model

Samuel Huntington (1927-2008), advisor of the apartheid regimes in South Africa in the 1980s: *“The West obviously differs from all other civilizations that have ever existed in that it has had an overwhelming impact on all other civilizations that have existed since 1500. It also inaugurated the processes of modernization and industrialization that have become worldwide, and as a result societies in all other civilizations have been attempting to catch up with the West in wealth and modernity.”* (1996)



The challenge to Western civilization

Huntington: *“Western culture is challenged by groups within Western societies. One such challenge comes from immigrants from other civilizations who reject assimilation and continue to adhere to and to propagate the values, customs, and cultures of their home societies. This phenomenon is most notable among Muslims in Europe, who are, however, a small minority. It is also manifest, in lesser degree, among Hispanics in the United States, who are a large minority. If assimilation fails in this case, the United States will become a cleft country, with all the potentials for internal strife and disunion that entails. In Europe, Western civilization could also be undermined by the weakening of its central component, Christianity.”*

The clash of civilizations

Huntington: *“Culture and cultural identities, which at the broadest level are civilization identities, are shaping the patterns of cohesion, disintegration, and conflict in the post-Cold War world.”*

Civilization world order

Huntington: *“For the first time in history global politics is both multipolar and multicivilizational. The survival of the West depends on Americans reaffirming their Western identity and Westerners accepting their civilization as unique not universal and uniting to renew and preserve it against challenges from non-Western societies. A civilization-based world order is emerging: societies sharing cultural affinities cooperate with each other; efforts to shift societies from one civilization to another are unsuccessful; and countries group themselves around the lead or core states of their civilization.”* (1996, before 9/11 2001)



The Grand Chessboard

Zbigniew Brzeziński (1928-2017) - National Security Advisor from 1977 to 1981 under president Carter: *“Eurasia is thus the chessboard on which the struggle for global primacy continues to be played, and that struggle involves geostrategy—the strategic management of geopolitical interests. It is noteworthy that as recently as 1940 two aspirants to global power, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin, agreed explicitly (in the secret negotiations of November of that year) that America should be excluded from Eurasia. Each realized that the injection of American power into Eurasia would preclude his ambitions regarding global domination. Each shared the assumption that Eurasia is the center of the world and that he who controls Eurasia controls the world. A half century later, the issue has been redefined: will America’s primacy in Eurasia endure, and to what ends might it be applied? The ultimate objective of American policy should be benign and visionary: to shape a truly cooperative global community, in keeping with long-range trends and with the fundamental interests of humankind. But in the meantime, it is imperative that no Eurasian challenger emerges, capable of dominating Eurasia and thus also of challenging America. The formulation of a comprehensive and integrated Eurasian geostrategy is therefore the purpose of this book.” (1989)*

The difference between the US and other empires

Zbigniew Brzeziński : *“Cultural domination has been an underappreciated facet of American global power. Whatever one may think of its aesthetic values, America’s mass culture exercises a magnetic appeal, especially on the world’s youth. Its attraction may be derived from the hedonistic quality of the lifestyle it projects, but its global appeal is undeniable. American television programs and films account for about three-fourths of the global market. American popular music is equally dominant, while American fads, eating habits, and even clothing are increasingly imitated worldwide. The language of the Internet is English, and an overwhelming proportion of the global computer chatter also originates from America, influencing the content of global conversation. Lastly, America has become a Mecca for those seeking advanced education, with approximately half a million foreign students flocking to the United States, with many of the ablest never returning home. Graduates from American universities are to be found in almost every Cabinet on every continent.”*

The US and a new world order

George W. Bush in 2006: *“The only alternative to American leadership is a dramatically more dangerous and anxious world.”*

Barrack Obama in 2014: *“Those who argue otherwise -- who suggest that America is in decline, or has seen its global leadership slip away -- are either misreading history or engaged in partisan politics... America must always lead on the world stage. If we don't, no one else will. The military ... is and always will be the backbone of that leadership.”*

President Joe Biden in 2022: *“There's going to be a new world order out there, and we've got to lead it.”*



Hard power is the guarantee for imperial power

Robert Kagan, conservative support of Hillary Clinton, husband of Victoria Nuland: *“There is the matter of American hard power. What has been true since the time of Rome remains true today: there can be no world order without power to preserve it, to shape its norms, uphold its institutions, defend the sinews of its economic system, and keep the peace.... If the United States begins to look like a less reliable defender of the present order, that order will begin to unravel. It remains true today as it has since the Second World War that only the United States has the capacity and the unique geographical advantages to provide global security. There can be no stable balance of power in Europe or Asia without the United States. And while we can talk about soft power and smart power, they have been and always will be of limited value when confronting raw military power.”*

Western civilization is based on US military power



Western civilization: a threat to humankind

- ❑ Perpetual wars and genocide
- ❑ Destruction of the planet is a real option
- ❑ Colonization of the mind plays a crucial role in Western domination

Next episode: China

- Three narratives on China's future: Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Xi Jinping
- The concept of the civilizational state: Zhang Weiwei

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The current narratives about civilization: China

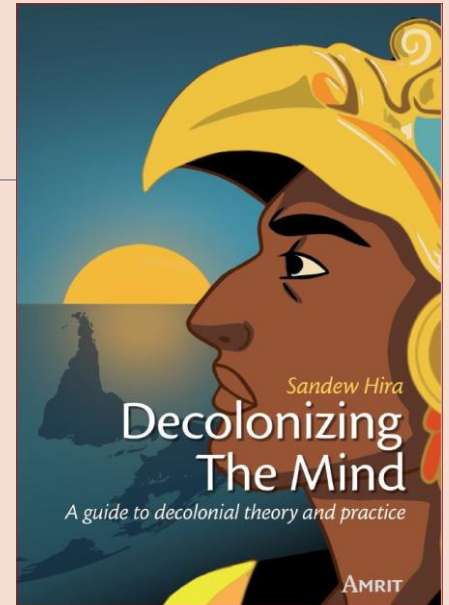
Decolonizing The Mind, the final frontier of colonialism with Sandew Hira

Decolonizing The Mind
A guide to decolonial theory and practice
#019
4-12-2023

The graphic features a background image of a diverse crowd of people, with a man in the foreground shouting. A smaller image of the book cover 'Decolonizing The Mind' is visible in the bottom right corner.

Source in the DTM book

- Paragraph 2.5 The crisis of Western civilization
- Download the PDF of the PowerPoint on www.sandewhira.com



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