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What is decolonial theory?

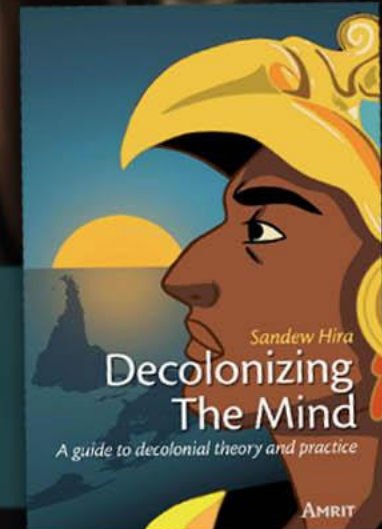
The background, nature, strength and weaknesses of decolonial theory and practice



The current narratives about civilization: Oceania



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



#025

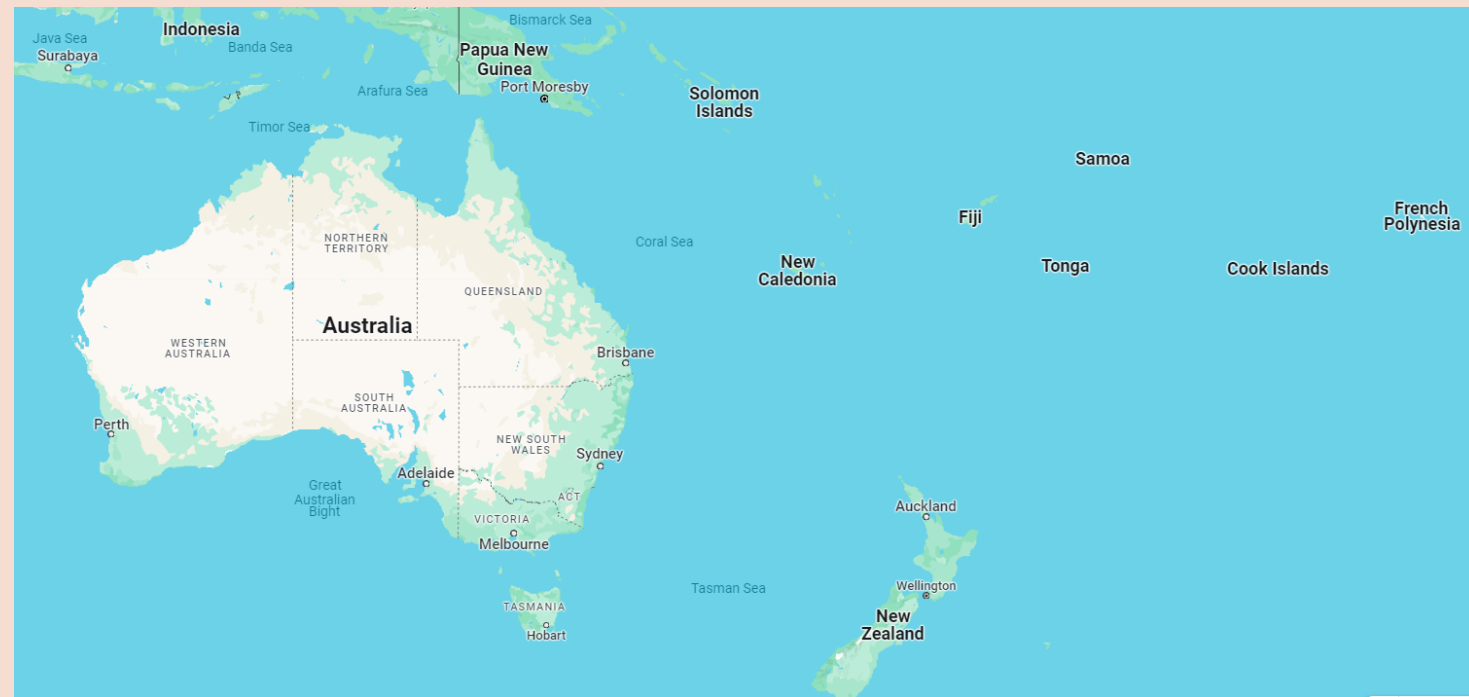
15-1-2024

War in Palestine

- ❑ Palestine 24.000 killed, 60.000 wounded
- ❑ American 'Washington Institute' poll showing that Hezbollah's popularity increased compared to the last poll in November 2020, and that support for the Hamas movement was widespread in Lebanese society; 79% of Lebanese have a positive opinion of Hamas, while the perception of a military solution to the conflict with the occupation, rather than a "political solution", is much more widespread in Lebanon than in other Arab countries. There is an overwhelming consensus in Lebanese society, namely 99%, that Arab countries should immediately sever all contacts with “Israel” in protest against the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.

Oceania

Oceania is a region of the South Pacific Ocean that comprises of 14 countries: Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Federated States Of Micronesia, Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati, Tonga, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu, and Nauru.



Terminology

- ❑ Australia: 'First Nations people', 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people(s)', or 'Indigenous Australians'
- ❑ New Zealand = Aotearoa

Demography

- ❑ Australia: 26 million; 4% identify as being Indigenous—
Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders
- ❑ Papua New Guinea: 10 million
- ❑ Aotearoa: 5 million; 17% identify as Maori
- ❑ Fiji: 900,000
- ❑ Solomon Islands: 700,000

Australia: National Sorry Day

Since 1998, May 26 in Australia is recognized as National Sorry Day to remember and commemorate the mistreatment of the indigenous population. There is a National Sorry Day Committee that has programs for schools across Australia to support teachers who plan events to commemorate National Sorry Day. The National Sorry Day is an annual event of education and reconciliation. Developing programs of immaterial reparation is an important element in decolonizing the mind.

We are a Polynesian country – we are Aotearoa

Maori campaign: Change the country's official name to Aotearoa and Officially restore the Te Reo Māori names for all towns, cities and place names.

Backlash of new right wing government 2023

- ❑ Dissolve the country's Māori Health Authority
- ❑ Rollback the use of the Māori language
- ❑ End the country's limits on tobacco sales, that was introduced to cut high rates of smoking among their people
- ❑ A future referendum on the principles of New Zealand's Treaty of Waitangi, a document signed by the colonial British regime and Māori in 1840 that enshrines principles of co-governance between indigenous and non-indigenous New Zealanders

Philosophy of First Nations People of Australia

It links humans to nature in an ideal world and ties it explicitly to land. *“To understand our law, our culture and our relationship to the physical and spiritual world,”* explains Patrick Dodson, a First Nation People thinker, *“you must begin with the land. Everything about Aboriginal society is inextricably woven with, and connected to, the land. Culture is the land, the land and spirituality of Aboriginal people, our cultural beliefs or reason for existence is the land. You take that away and you take away our reason for existence. We have grown the land up. We are dancing, singing and painting for the land. We are celebrating the land. Removed from our lands, we are literally removed from ourselves.”*

Maori philosophy: Linda Tuhiwai Te Rina Smith

Concept of space and time: the language makes no clear or absolute distinction between the two: for example, the Maori word for time or space is the same. Other indigenous languages have no related word for either space or time, having instead a series of very precise terms for parts of these ideas, or for relationships between the idea and something else in the environment. There are positions within time and space in which people and events are located, but these cannot necessarily be described as distinct categories of thought.

Time is associated with social activity and how other people organized their daily lives. What is the purpose of life: relationship between work and leisure.

Linda Smith: the colonization of the mind

Colonial education came in two basic forms: missionary or religious schooling (which was often residential) followed later by public and secular schooling. Numerous accounts across nations now attest to the critical role played by schools in assimilating colonized peoples, and in the systematic, frequently brutal, forms of denial of indigenous languages, knowledges and cultures.

Colonial and decolonial view of Maori history

Colonial view: (1) initial discovery and contact, (2) population decline, (3) acculturation, (4) assimilation, (5) 'reinvention' as a hybrid, ethnic culture.

Decolonial view: (1) contact and invasion, (2) genocide and destruction, (3) resistance and survival (4) recovery as indigenous peoples.

Contributions to a new world civilization

- ❑ There are many legacies of civilizations from the global south we have not dealt with such as Buddhism.
- ❑ We need experts to get involved in teaching us about these legacies and contribute to building a new world civilization.

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Future sessions

- Bandung dialogues: series of dialogue with thinkers from different civilizations

Next episode: Bandung Dialogue with Imam Muhammad Al-Asi

- Who is Muhammad Imam Al-Asi?
- His encyclopedia on the Quran

14 The Bandung dialogues
A series of dialogues with thinkers from different civilizational backgrounds

With Imam Muhammad al-Asi

Religion and science

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Sandew Hira
Decolonizing
The Mind
A guide to decolonial theory and practice

#026
22-01-2024

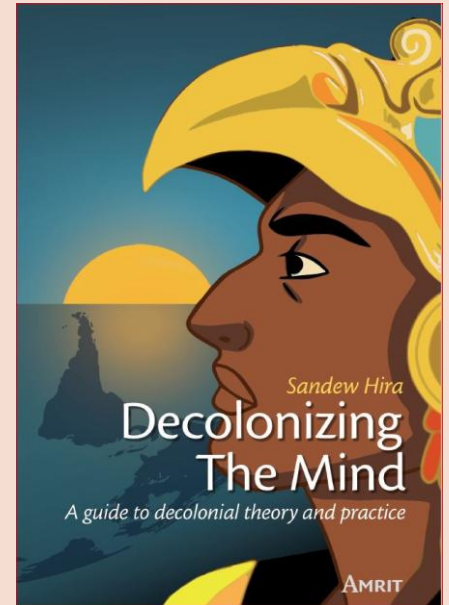
AMRIT

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- ❑ London Saturday January 20, 9.30 AM – 5.30 PM
- ❑ Birmingham Sunday January 21, 9.45 AM – 4.00 PM
- ❑ Zie www.sandewhira.com/events

Source in the DTM book

- Index: Australia, New Zealand
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