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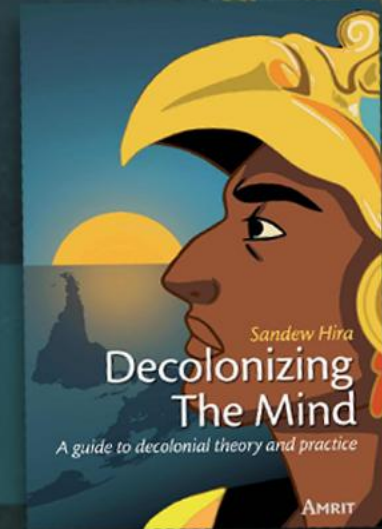
## World Affairs

A decolonial analysis of current world affairs

# An analysis of the US presidential elections of 2024



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



#030  
19-02-2024

# Palestine

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- ❑ 28,000 Palestinian killed, 68.000 wounded.
- ❑ IOF preparations for ethnic cleansing in full swing
- ❑ Prospects for final showdown are growing

# Topics

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- ❑ Understanding the history of the USA
- ❑ Understanding the political and economic system of USA
- ❑ Understanding the current phase of world history
- ❑ Understanding what is at stake in the 2024 elections

# History of USA

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- ❑ 1492-1607: exploration by Europeans, short lived trading posts
- ❑ From 1607: settlement of European communities: indentured labourers
- ❑ War of conquest: first crime of genocide

# The British colonies in North Abya Yala

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- ❑ No taxation without representation
- ❑ 1773: Boston Tea Party – boycott Tea of the British East India Company
- ❑ White freedom from Britain



# American war of White Independence

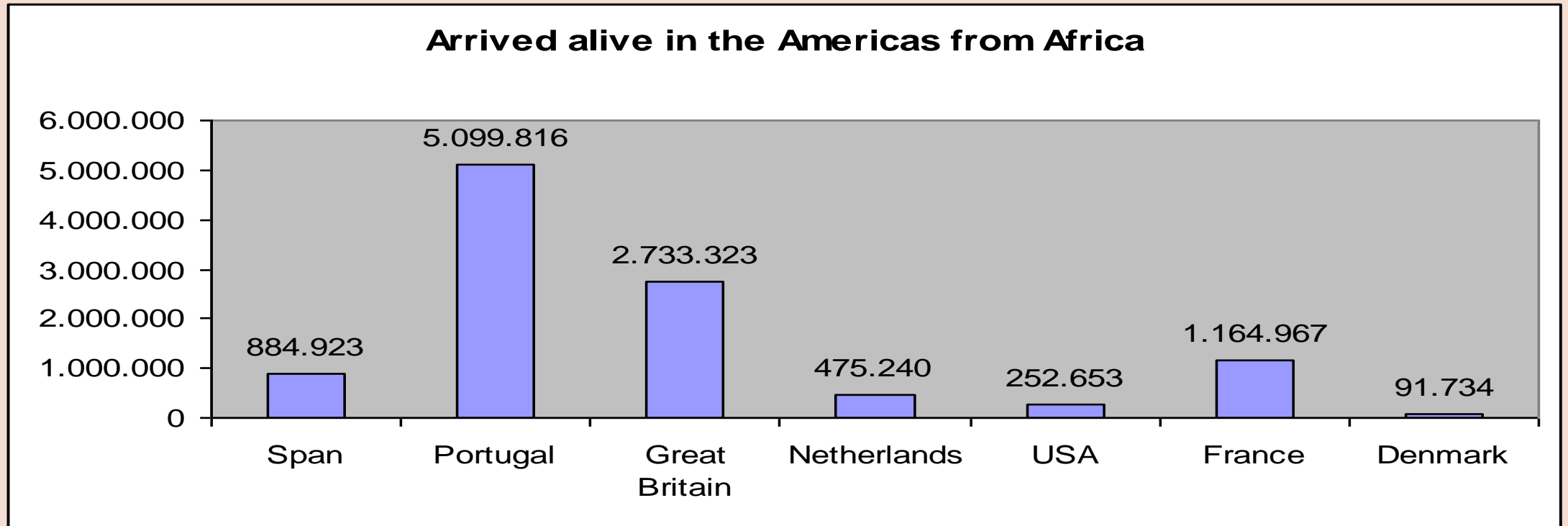
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- ❑ George Washington (1732-1799)
- ❑ Support to criminal French during revolution in Haiti
- ❑ Slave owner
- ❑ July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776: signing of the Declaration of Independence for white men
- ❑ Growth from 13 to 51 states
  - ❑ War with Mexico – conquest of the South
  - ❑ War with Indigenous people – conquest of the West



# Transatlantic slavery

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# Slavery and black struggle in the USA

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## What is decolonial theory?

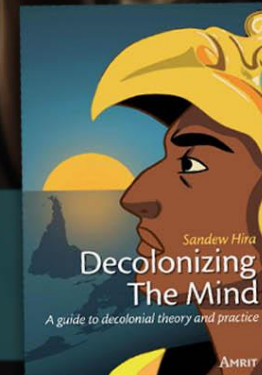
The background, nature, strength and weaknesses of decolonial theory and practice



## The current narratives about civilization: African narratives



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#024  
8-1-2024



# Slavery and economics: 1619-1865

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- ❑ Cotton: 1840: 60% world production from the south of USA (1793 invention of cotton gin- a machine that separates cotton fibers from their seeds)
- ❑ US economy - agriculture in the South, industry in the north

# The economic contradictions in the USA

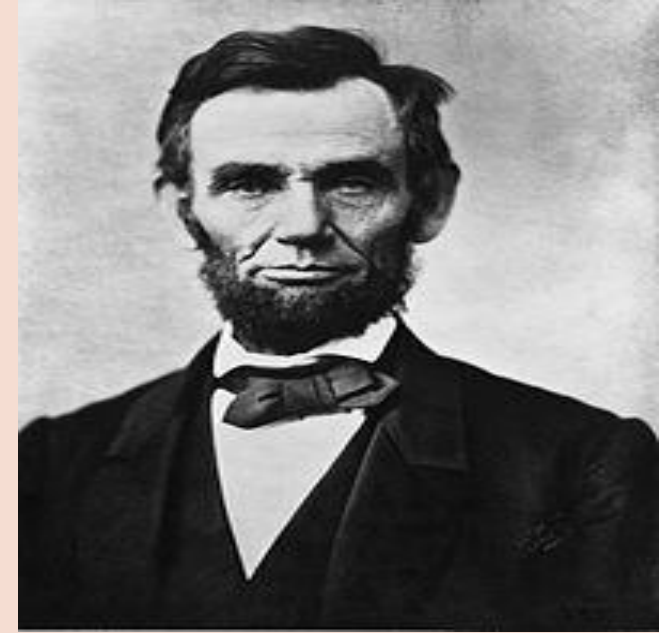
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- ❑ Development of national economy: railway, banking system, canals
- ❑ White immigration: 1836-1914: 30 million Europeans to the USA
- ❑ Import tariffs: bad for agriculture (import of machinery), good for own industry
- ❑ New “free” land in the west: for large slave owners or small white farmers. Continuous war against the indigenous people.
- ❑ Role of federal state in the process of building a national economy
- ❑ What way for the future: industrialization or slave economy

# American civil war 1861-1865

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- ❑ Election of Abraham Lincoln on ticket of national economy and industrialization
- ❑ Secession of the south from the north (Confederation versus the Union)
- ❑ Union defeated the confederation
- ❑ How to reintegrated defeated white brothers and sisters in the system: reconstruction



*Abraham Lincoln*

# Reconstruction and white betrayal

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- ❑ Reconstruction 1865-1874: Civil rights for black (voting rights, equality before the law), integration of the South in the national economy, prohibition of the Ku Klux Klan
- ❑ White betrayal 1874-1896: New laws of restricting black freedom, introduction of segregation/apartheid laws in different states, the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, introduction apartheid in national law 1896: Homer Plessy v. Ferguson.

# Democrats and Republicans

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## Democrats

- ❑ 1792: party of the South
- ❑ In favor of slavery
- ❑ In favor of imperialist expansion
- ❑ Now “left”

## Republicans

- ❑ 1854: party of the North
- ❑ Against slavery
- ❑ In favor of isolationism, against participation in World War I and II
- ❑ Now “right”

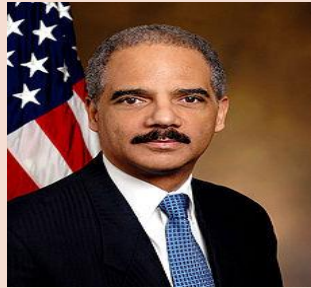
# The new demography

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Ethnic group	2005	2050	2005	2050
White	67%	47%	203	206
Latino	14%	29%	42	127
Black	13%	13%	39	57
Asian	5%	9%	15	39
Total	99%	98%	300	429
Born outside of USA	12%	19%	36	83



# The 'multicultural' cabinet of president Barack Hussain Obama: 7 of 15



Eric Holder  
Justice Department,  
Afro American



Gary Locke, trade department  
Chinese

Hilda Solls, labour department  
Hispanic



Steven Chu, energy department  
Chinese



Eric Shinseki, veteran department  
Japanese

Janet Napolitano, descurity  
department,  
Italian



# Governors van USA-states

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**Bobby Jindal, Louisiana**



**Deval Patrick, Massachusetts**



**Bill Richardson, New Mexico**



**David Patterson, New York**

# The political and economic system of the USA

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- ❑ The Military Industrial Complex (MIC): defense industry defines foreign policy
- ❑ A study by Brown University concludes that between 2000 and 2021 the USA spent US\$ 14.1 trillion (US\$ 14,100,000,000,000) on military defense (of which US\$ 2.3 trillion was spent in Afghanistan). One-quarter to one-third of all Pentagon contracts in recent years have gone to just five major weapons contractors: Lockheed Martin, Boeing, General Dynamics, Raytheon, and Northrop Grumman.
- ❑ They fund politicians and determines their policies

# The personal connections

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- Helen Caldicott: *“Without stretching very hard at all, the 2003 invasion of Iraq can be seen as a business deal - a kind of private economic stimulus package - orchestrated by and for Bush ideologues and their corporate friends in the military-industrial complex. In this charmed circle of American capitalism, Lockheed Martin-, Boeing-, and Raytheonmanufactured munitions destroy Iraq; George Schultz’s Bechtel Corporation and Dick Cheney’s Halliburton rebuild Iraq; and Iraqi oil pays for it all.”*
- On January 22, 2022, President Biden appointed Lloyd Austin as the Secretary of Defense. He had been on the board of Raytheon Technologies, a major defense contractor, since 2016.

# The policy connections

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Helen Caldicott: *“In early March 2003, just before the Iraqi invasion, the army gave Lockheed Martin 100 million dollars for 212 PAC- 3s to be used in Iraq. Not coincidentally, Lockheed Martin played a significant role in organizing the Iraqi invasion. Bruce Jackson, former LM vice president, chaired the 2002 Coalition for the Liberation of Iraq, formed with the explicit support of the Bush administration. Jackson also helped draft the statement signed by the ten ‘New Europe’ members in support of the war, deriding France, Germany, and other members of ‘Old Europe’ because they would not support Bush’s push to invade Iraq. Lockheed Martin receives, on average, 105 dollars annually from each U.S. taxpayer to support its weapons construction.”*

# The nuclear war industry

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Nuclear weapons, in fact most weapons, are produced by private companies in the US. The most important producers are Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and Raytheon.



# The forces at play in the US elections

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- ❑ The political parties: Democratic Party, Republican Party
- ❑ The financial donors
- ❑ The media
- ❑ The independent candidates
  - ❑ Donald Trump
  - ❑ Vivek Ramaswamy
  - ❑ Cornel West (People's Party, Green Party, Justice for All Party)

# The political parties: Democratic Party

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- ❑ Totally dominated by the MIC
- ❑ The left wing in the party is powerless and is used to distract progressive voters from truly anti-imperialist forces
- ❑ The election of Barack Obama was the apex of the civil rights movement, but it meant nothing for oppressed people outside the US; he was guided by the MIC
- ❑ There is a pro-imperialist history of the party

# The political parties: Republican Party

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- ❑ To a large extent dominated by the MIC
- ❑ There is a isolationist and anti-interventionist history of the party
- ❑ Background Make America Great Again (MAGA) :
  - ❑ Isolationist
  - ❑ Shrinking power in the world: competition with China
  - ❑ Shrinking social base: white middle class

# The financial donors: purpose influence policy

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- ❑ Big business
- ❑ The MIC
- ❑ Small donors

# The media

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- ❑ Media for the Democratic Party: liberal, progressive, pro-war
- ❑ Media for the Republican party: conservative, pro-war

# The independent candidates

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- ❑ Donald Trump
- ❑ Vivek Ramaswamy
- ❑ Cornel West (People's Party, Green Party, Justice for All Party)



# The Republican billionaires

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- ❑ Trump: Real estate billionaire. Ramaswamy: pharmaceutical industry: no links to MIC
- ❑ Politics as business and entertainment: run political administration as a business
- ❑ Goal of business is to make money
- ❑ For business peace is better than war
- ❑ Social base: white lower and middle class, and anti-globalist capitalists: MAGA
- ❑ Domestic policies: right wing
- ❑ Foreign policies: against war

# The left alternative

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- ❑ Theoretical weakness
- ❑ Organizational weakness
- ❑ But there is a huge potential in social movements

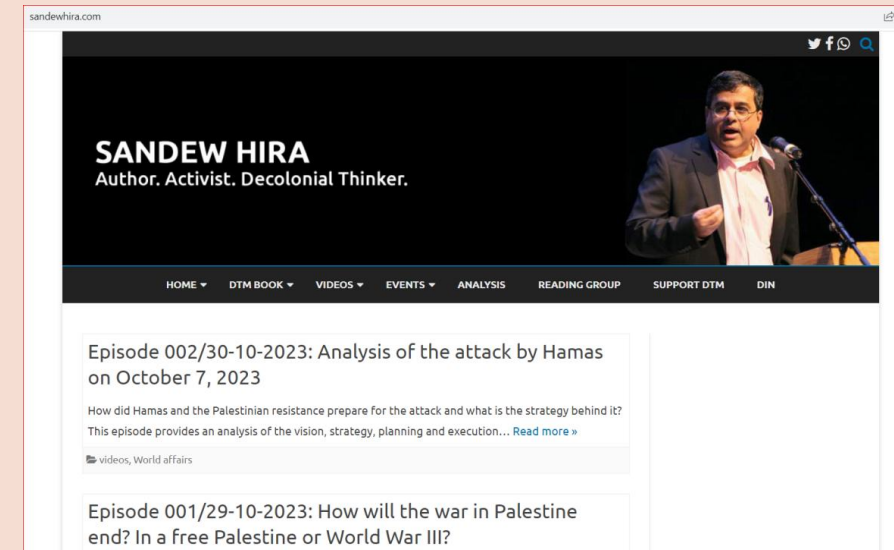
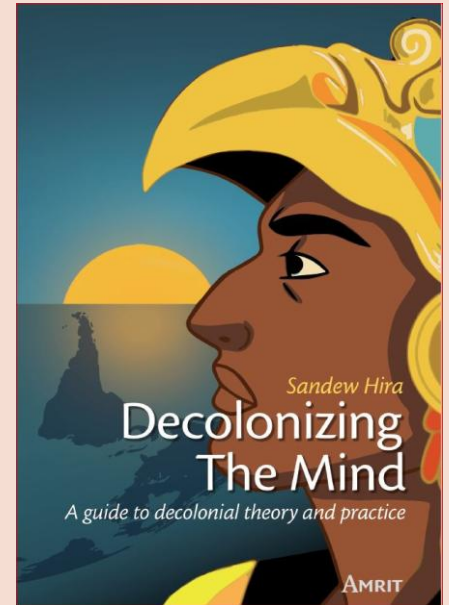
# Conclusions

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- ❑ For anti-war movement: Trump is better than Biden
- ❑ For domestic policies: Biden is better than Trump
- ❑ Both are bad for the American population as a whole
- ❑ Focus for the future: what are you fighting for and how do you organize outside of the Democratic and Republican Party.

# Source in the DTM book

- ❑ Chapter 13 on imagining a new world civilization
- ❑ Download the PDF of the PowerPoint on [www.sandewhira.com](http://www.sandewhira.com)



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