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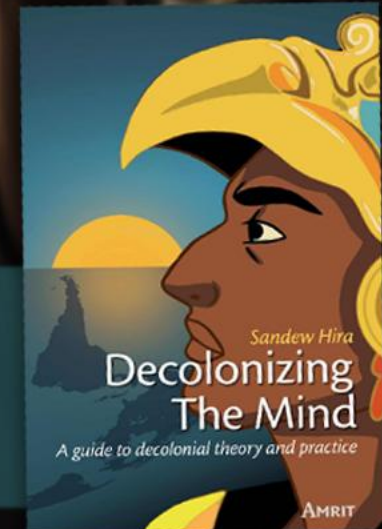
What is decolonial theory?

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

The future of the decolonial movement: part 2: the theoretical frameworks of the European Enlightenment



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



#35

25-03-2024

Topics

- Liberalism
- Marxism

Liberalism

Liberalism is based on the concept of the individual as the basic unit of society and individualism as the basic value of its ethics. The economic structure is based on the freedom of the individual capitalist to exploit labor by using free markets. The political system is based on multiparty parliamentary democracy. The cultural system is based on scientific knowledge. Its view on world history is that with capitalism, human history has come to an end. Liberalism is the apex of human development.

Liberalism as an ideology of liberation - 1

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804): the liberation of the mind. People in Europe at that time had learn to obey the ruler, the tax-collector, the police and the clergyman. The mind was not free to think, but only to obey. Kant defined the purpose of the Enlightenment as the need to liberate the individual mind: *“Enlightenment is man’s emergence from his self-incurred immaturity. Immaturity is the inability to use one’s own understanding without the guidance of another. This immaturity is selfincurred if its cause is not lack of understanding, but lack of resolution and courage to use it without the guidance of another. The motto of enlightenment is therefore: Sapere aude! Have courage to use your own understanding!”*

Liberalism as an ideology of liberation - 2

- ❑ Theory of white privilege (Episode 33): make racism individual
- ❑ Theory of intersectionality: places the experience of the individual at the core of its theory

Classical Marxism: economic theory

Core concept: labor theory of value. The value of a commodity is based on the average number of labor hours required to produce it. Surplus value is the difference between the value that the ruling class gets from the commodity and the value that the laborer receives. Surplus value is the basis for class societies. Capitalism is the latest stage in the history of humankind. In this mode of production surplus value is appropriated from wage labor through the market mechanism and private ownership of the means of production.

Classical Marxism: social theory

- ❑ Concept of class: social group and its relation to the means of production.
- ❑ Concept of class struggle: all struggles are class struggles. It can be interwoven with other struggles (national liberation, women, race, ethnicity) but the basis is class struggle.
- ❑ End of world history: classless society

Classical Marxism: political theory

- ❑ The state is an instrument of the ruling class: government, police, army, intelligence agencies, education institutes
- ❑ A socialist revolution destroys the state and builds a new one
- ❑ At the end of history the state will wither away

Classical Marxism: cultural theory

- ❑ Basis of culture: scientific development of the European Enlightenment
- ❑ Secularism is basis of culture

The rise of Marxism

- ❑ Marxism became the leading theory of liberation and led to the rise of a socialist bloc in the world.
- ❑ Socialist bloc represented two third of the world population

The decline of Marxism

- ❑ 1956 revelations of the crime of Stalin by Nikita Khrushchev.
- ❑ 1989: the end of the Soviet bloc and the dissolution of the Soviet Union
- ❑ Socialism implode and destroyed itself

The collapse of the Soviet Union

- ❑ The gains of the Russian revolution: women, LGTB, oppressed nationalities, central planning, full employment
- ❑ Stalinism: 10 millions peasants died. Millions more were executed
- ❑ Development of a corrupt bureaucracy
- ❑ 1980: collapse of the economy
- ❑ Perestroika: restructuring of economy and society
- ❑ Glasnost: open up society for public discussion and participation

Pragmatism saved Marxism

- China
- Venezuela
- Bolivia

China - 1

- ❑ 1949 revolution: increase in literacy and life expectancy
- ❑ Disastrous economic policies: Great Leap Forward (1958-1962): 16.5 millions starved to death
- ❑ Disastrous political change: Cultural Revolution (1966-1976): death of 20 million people
- ❑ Deng Xiaoping: drastic changes

Socialism with Chinese characteristics

- ❑ Aim of socialism: improve life of people
- ❑ Marxist concept of production forces
- ❑ Innovative concept of role of entrepreneurs in developing production forces
- ❑ What does poverty alleviation means. It is more that increase of income. It is a drastic change of living circumstances.

Venezuela: socialist of the 21st century

Hugo Chavez: *"The only way to save the world is through socialism, but a socialism that exists within a democracy; there's no dictatorship here."*

"Let us remember what happened in the Soviet Union: in the Soviet Union there was never democracy, there wasn't socialism, it was diverted and the leaders did not realize it, or if they did realize it they were incapable of changing things and it became a beaten empire. The fault does not lie solely with Soviet Union, the blame also lies with all of the external aggressions, economic sabotage, biological and bacterial wars, bombings and explosions in the Soviet oil industry, as well as the contradictions, the divisions, the culture. That is why the socialism of the XXI century, which has resurfaced here as if from the dead, is something new; it has to be truly new, and one of the things that is fundamentally new in our model is the democratic character, a new democratic hegemony which obliges us not to impose, but rather to convince, and that is where we are coming from: the subject of the media, communications, of our arguments, so that the whole country is aware of what we are presenting today; of how we can achieve it, of how we can make it happen. A change in culture. An impact on a cultural level is vital for the revolutionary process and for the construction of a XXI century socialist democracy in Venezuela."

Bolivia 2005: Movement for Socialism

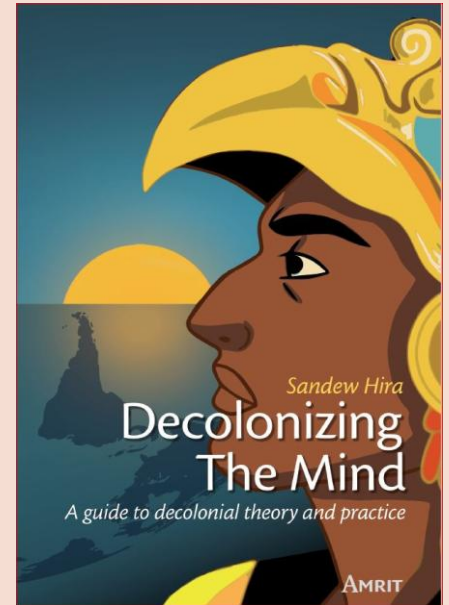
2009 constitution: Article 9 defines the functions of the state and one of the functions is: *“To construct a just and harmonious society, built on decolonization, without discrimination or exploitation, with full social justice, in order to strengthen the Pluri-National identities.”*

In the section on education article 78 outlines the purpose of higher education: *“Education is unitary, public, universal, democratic, participatory, communitarian, decolonizing and of quality.”*

Evo Morales: *“Capitalism has created a civilization that is wasteful, consumerist, exclusive, clienteles, a generator of opulence and misery. That is the pattern of life, production and consumption that we urgently need to transform.”* The main task ahead is *“to destroy imperialism and build the civilizing horizon of Living Well in harmony and equilibrium with Mother Earth.”*

Source in the DTM book

- Index: Introduction
- Download the PDF of the PowerPoint on www.sandewhira.com



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