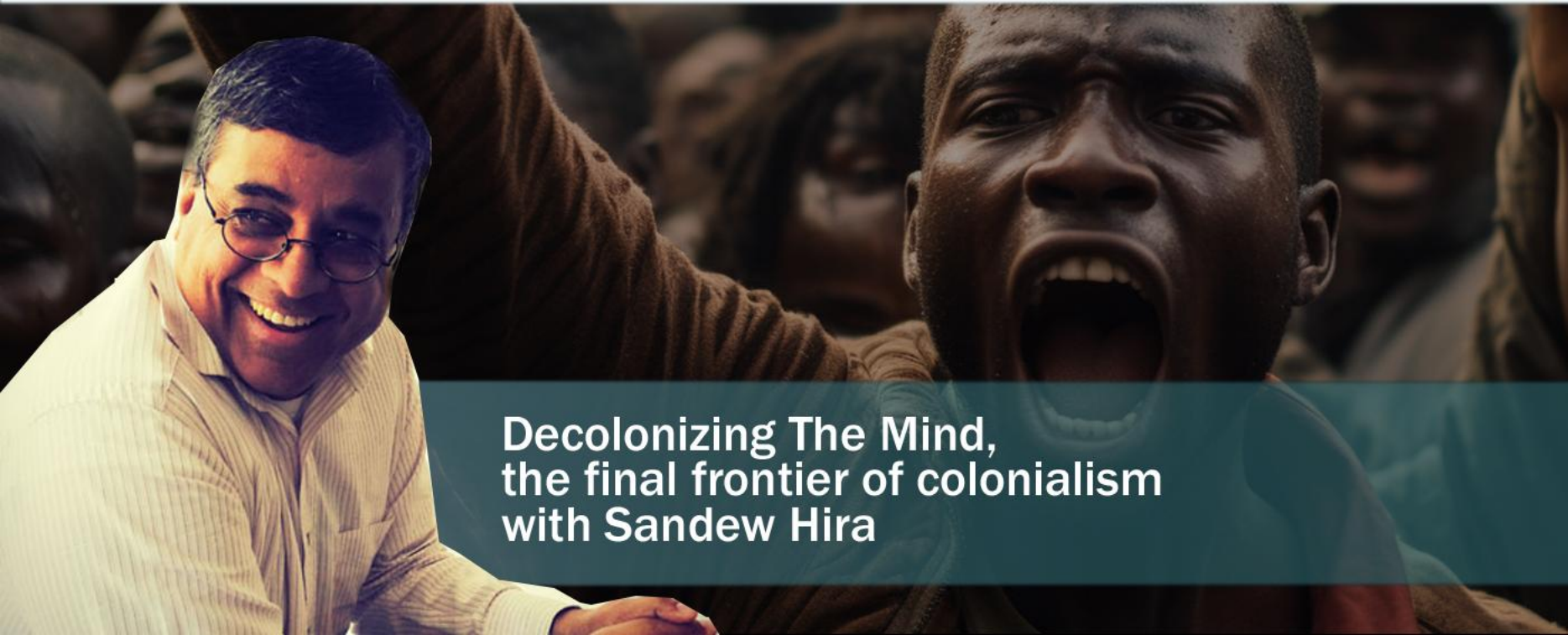


2

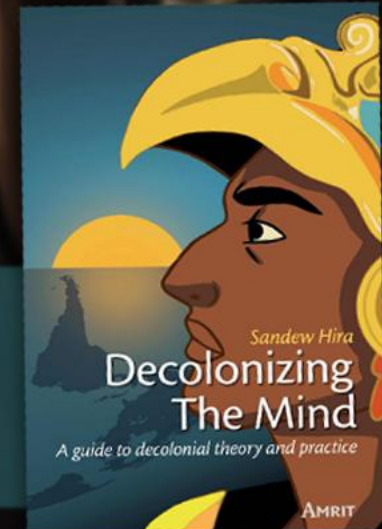
# What is decolonial theory?

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

## The final episode: Towards a New World Civilization



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



#93

04-08-2025

# This is the last episode

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- ❑ Started on October 29, 2023 to explain October 7 and its aftermath
- ❑ Weekly rhythm is a burden: research, data collection, analysis, presentation, distribution
- ❑ New challenges:
  - ❑ International network for building a new world civilization: activists, intellectuals, think tanks, universities, anti-imperialist governments
  - ❑ Amrit Publishers
  - ❑ New books in planning
  - ❑ Lectures and articles

# Topics

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- ❑ Where are we now in world history?
- ❑ Where are we heading?
- ❑ What is our role in influencing that direction?

# The fall of the west and the rise of the rest

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- ❑ Economics today:
  - ❑ China is now the largest economy in the world
  - ❑ BRICS is becoming an economic powerhouse
  - ❑ EU shooting itself in her foot with Russia: expensive oil and gas
  - ❑ US desperately tries to regain economic strength through boycott and tariffs
  
- ❑ Economics tomorrow
  - ❑ The countries with the largest population will become the largest economies
  - ❑ China will play a leading role with BRI

# The ten largest countries by population

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1	India	1.46 billion
2	China	1.42 billion
3	United States	347 million
4	Indonesia	286 million
5	Pakistan	255 million
6	Nigeria	238 million
7	Brazil	213 million
8	Bangladesh	176 million
9	Russia	144 million
10	Ethiopia	135 million

# Military situation

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- ❑ War in Ukraine:
  - ❑ NATO, not Zelensky, versus Russia. A strategic military defeat of Russia on the battlefield has failed.
  - ❑ No other options for NATO than nuclear war or strategic defeat
- ❑ War in Western Asia
  - ❑ Gaza genocide was the prelude to a military attack on the main player: Iran. Goal: destroy the Islamic Revolution
  - ❑ Negotiations were a decoy. The attack failed. The Islamic Revolution is alive and kicking
  - ❑ No other option than nuclear attack or strategic defeat and the dissolution of Israel
- ❑ The preparation for a war in Asia: Taiwan

# Technology

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- ❑ In the past: US and EU are leading
- ❑ In the future: China, India, Russia, Iran, Brazil

# Political situation

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The Global South is taking the initiative in reshaping the world

- ❑ BRICS
- ❑ Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- ❑ Growing critique of international bodies controlled by the US: UN, International Atomic Energy Agency, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons



# Experience Global South for independence

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- ❑ 1955 Bandung conference
- ❑ 1961: founding of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Belgrade, Yugoslavia

# Ten principles of Bandung

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1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations, large and small.
4. Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country.
5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself, singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
6. Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defense to serve the particular interests of any of the great powers, and abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries.
7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration, or judicial settlement, as well as other peaceful means of the parties' own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation.
10. Respect for justice

# Criteria membership NAM

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- 1. Independent Foreign Policy:** The country must have adopted an independent policy based on the coexistence of states with different political and social systems and on non-alignment, or it must have shown a tendency to favor such a policy.
- 2. Support for National Independence Movements:** The country must consistently support movements for national independence. This reflected the NAM's strong anti-colonial stance.
- 3. No Membership in Military Alliances:** The country should not be a member of a multilateral military alliance concluded in the context of a great power conflict (e.g., NATO or the Warsaw Pact).
- 4. No Bilateral Military Agreements Tied to Great Powers:** If the country had a bilateral military agreement with a great power or was a member of a regional defense pact, that agreement or pact must not have been concluded deliberately in the context of great power conflicts.
- 5. No Foreign Military Bases:** If the country had granted military bases to a foreign power, the concession must not have been made in the context of great power conflicts.

# 29 participants of Bandung

Afghanistan	Lebanon
Burma (now Myanmar)	Liberia
Cambodia	Libya
Ceylon (now Sri Lanka)	Nepal
Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam (North Vietnam)	Pakistan
Egypt	People's Republic of China
Ethiopia	Philippines
Gold Coast (now Ghana)	Saudi Arabia
India	State of Viet-Nam (South Vietnam)
Indonesia	Sudan
Iran	Syria
Iraq	Thailand
Japan	Turkey
Jordan	Yemen
Laos	

# 120 member states of the NAM

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## **African Members (54)**

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

## **Asian Members (39)**

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen.

## **Latin America and Caribbean Members (26)**

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela.

## **European Members (1)**

Belarus. Russia has an observer status

# Challenges for the global south

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- ❑ The West has control of many elites of the global south and is always trying to block independent policies
- ❑ The control is on many levels: economics, military, technological and cultural (media, education)

# Towards a new world civilization

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- ❑ A new strategy from the Global South: cultural decolonization
- ❑ Not economic, political or military, but based on a cultural concept: civilization
- ❑ Multipolar world: The concept of pole or polarity refers to the existence of several powerful states or blocs, each possessing substantial economic, military influence.

# The concept of civilization

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A civilization is a society with a specific cultural base. The cultural base is the most distinctive feature of a civilization because it has a view of what kind of societies that civilization wants to build, what kind of vision it has for the future of mankind, where it stands now and where it wants to go. It defines the identity of that civilization. On the basis of these views, it sets up the institutions for knowledge production and distribution and other institutions in the economic, political, social and geographic dimension.



# The current situation

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There have been many civilizations in the history of humankind. Western civilization is the only civilization in human history that has a truly global reach and dominated every part of the world through universities and media through colonialism. Its knowledge base has extended to countries and regions that were not even its direct political and military control (Japan, China, Iran). It suppressed other civilizations in order to become hegemonic and universal.

In the first 150 years of colonialism its knowledge base was Christian theology. Since 1650 the European Enlightenment has become the knowledge base of the colonial world civilization.

Western civilization is a civilization of genocide, injustice, oppression and exploitation

# A better world is possible: a new world civilization

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This is the horizon for social movements and anti-imperialist governments. This should be on the agenda for the coming decades.

# How to build a new world civilization

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1. Build the knowledge base for a new world civilization. How will the philosophical foundation of a new knowledge base look like? Where is it different from the old one? How will the different distinctive disciplines look like? How do we reconstruct the disciplines? What role does the knowledge production of civilizations of the Global South play in this regard? What are the distinctive features of a new economic or political theory?
2. Translation of knowledge into practice. What does a new economic theory tell us about how to organize the economy in a country, region and the world?

# Dialogue and struggle

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In 2005 the then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, with co-sponsorship from the Governments of Spain and Türkiye, established the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations** (UNAOC). Its primary goal is to "galvanize international action against extremism" by fostering intercultural and interreligious dialogue and cooperation. UNAOC serves as a platform for open and respectful dialogue between diverse cultures, religions, and societies. This aims to reduce polarization, counter stereotypes, and build bridges of understanding. This approach leads to nothing. It does not address the oppressive nature of the current world civilization. Building a new world civilization is not primarily a dialogue, but a struggle.

The struggle is about the critique of the old civilization and the creation of something new. Dialogue is an instrument of struggle and not a replacement. Independent intellectuals can play an important role in the critique by challenging key Eurocentric intellectuals and their media.

# The layers of a new world civilization

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## **1. Governments and state institutions**

Progressive and anti-imperialist governments are currently involved in shaping the multipolar world. They can be instrumental in shaping the transition to a new world civilization. Governments control the institutions in a country that produce and disseminate knowledge. Governments can develop policies of how these institutions can contribute in reconstructing knowledge and the policy implications of this reconstruction.

## **2. Academia and media**

The universities and other academic institutions are responsible in a society for the production and dissemination of knowledge. The media bring this knowledge to the masses of the population. The universities can redesign their curricula to reconstruct the disciplines and help develop the institutional and policy implications of their reconstruction.

## **3. Think tanks**

Think tanks are increasingly playing an important role in shaping opinion. They are often part of lobby groups and have close ties with the dominant media, especially in the West.

## **4. Social movements**

Social movements are driving forces in changing society. There is where knowledge for change is translated into action.

## **5. Independent intellectuals**

These are individuals, not necessarily tied to academia, who produce new knowledge. History is full of this thinkers. They are often linked to social movements.

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Thanks for you attention  
and patience