

Forum:	General Assembly 4 (SPECPOL)
Issue:	Measures to promote sustainable foreign investment in formerly colonized states
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Introduction

Formerly colonized states are under the status quo at a disadvantage. Their development was hindered in the past by colonizers. These countries are often located in Africa or Asia. Major European nations have laid claims on their sovereignty in the past. Countries like these often have high rates of corruption and low standards of living. The Europeans destabilized their local governments when they colonized them and did not try to counteract the damage that they made when they left. A destabilized government means that national projects are unplanned and this does not allow decent growth in their economy.

Lacking a stable government and economy, previously colonized states have a hard time reaching international standards. Foreign investment in nations is a really fast way to develop a nation. The forum should not discuss if international investment is good. This idea is indisputably good and the only opposition would come from nations that do not wish to invest or to be invested in for political reasons. The forums should instead focus on how to make sure that this investment is safe. There have been numerous cases where the investment led to debt-diplomacy or loss of sovereignty. This forum has to maintain a balance that can incentivise investments but also make sure that these investments do not pose a harm to the development of a nation.

Definition of Key Terms

Formerly colonized states

Nation states that have been previously colonized by another state. These states would have been used to provide natural resources or manpower for the mother nation. These would be the nations mostly affected when any resolution is passed on this topic.

Reparations

Some form of payback in the form of money, aid or supplies submitted by the government to make up for their previous actions against a group of people.

Sustainable

An adjective used to describe actions that can be continued over a long period of time. These actions over that period of time would have minimal disruptions on the local environment.

Investments

Investments are usually sums of money given out to develop things. Individuals, companies and individuals can invest in a lot of different things. Investments are usually given because there is a potential for that thing to become something of monetary value.

Corruption

Actions carried out by people in power that would ultimately benefit themselves and harm their state. A common action carried out in states that lack a stable government. Bad economic situations make people more vulnerable to corruption and creates more instances of corruption.

Slave trade

The purchasing and selling of human labor between owners. The slave trade fueled the conquest of other nations to provide prisoners of war as slaves. This trade is very profitable and indirectly supports colonialism by creating a demand for laborers.

Debt-trap diplomacy

Lending nations a lot of money for development when the loaner knows that they are incapable of paying back all the money. This puts nations in massive debt and gives the loaner leverage over the lender. This leverage can later be used to buy their voice in the UN or lose their sovereignty.

Merchantilism

The concept that dictates that colonies can only trade with their mother nations. This happened in the past and limited what colonies could trade for and eventually puts them at a disadvantage in trade.

Background Information

Colonial times

Countries like Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal and Belgium owned most of the colonies overseas. They were the superpowers that owned most of the world. They became very wealthy and

improved their standard of living because of that. They were able to exploit colonies without having any consequences and therefore acted without a check and balance.

Slave trade

The slave trade was between three major regions, Europe, Africa and the New World. The New World and the Caribbeans needed workers to work on their sugar/tobacco plantations. The need for laborers became the demand for slaves. European nations started to buy people in Africa to sell to the Americas for money. The African nations sold their prisoners of war to the Westerners for money. This led to the people of Africa to be more warlike to capture prisoners. This demand for laborers split many African societies and created conflicts between them. These issues are still projected between each other and prevent nations from cooperating with each other. This underlying conflict also results in the numerous civil wars that break out on the continent.

Exploitation of lands

Most of the overseas colonies are plantations of some sort. They are used to grow crops like tobacco, sugar canes or spices to be sold back in Europe. These plantations are fields of the same crop grown on the same land all the time. This leads to long term soil nutrient loss and poor harvests. Local resources like wood and minerals were harvested to be sold in the market back in Europe. The colonies have poor ground qualities and are unable to sustain their agricultural practices in the present day. All the economically feasible resources have been harvested, leaving the nations with no resource to export.

Post-colonial times

After the major countries pulled out of colonies, the attention that these former colonies got was limited. Neglected because they provided no benefits to the Western world. They are only noticed because of the numerous wars that they are fighting among themselves.

Monroe Doctrine

This doctrine stated that no nation could colonize the New World. This doctrine pushed away Spanish and Portuguese influence in South America. North America at that time was still in its early stages of development and did not play a big role in this too much. The Monroe Doctrine was upheld by the British because of their superior naval fleet and could prevent any colonization from happening in South America. The British supported this doctrine because it opened up trading opportunities for them. Since the colonies in the New World were now independent, they had the authority to trade with whomever they pleased. The British had their superior naval power

and were able to outcompete other European nations. Britain became the biggest trader of these nations and became the source of all goods in these previously colonized nations. Their reliance on Britain meant that they did not develop themselves in a sustainable manner. When Britain decided to pull out of these nations because of troubles back in Europe, these nations were left in neglect. The New World nations were underdeveloped and relied too heavily on foreign nations to sustain themselves.

Berlin Conference

When Europe started to move out of Africa, the major European powers gathered in Berlin and decided the borders for the future nations of Africa. While this may seem like a nice thing to do, it was the beginning of disaster. Since the African nations had no say in how the borders were to be drawn, it was a symbol for the oppression of Africans and that Europeans were still in control. The borders drawn were also in total disregard of native populations. The borders that were drawn resulted in different ethnic groups being mixed together. Some groups were split by the borders and some put opposing tribes together. The newly formed nations were unstable from within because the people could not get along with each other. This is the start of a troubling cycle between corrupt regimes for African nations.

Violent endings of regimes

The cycles were between military rulers that overthrew the previous one. Many of them made empty promises of a republic to the public and took advantage of the power bestowed upon them. These military rules were headed by an army general and dictator. Resources were over exploited to maintain the lavish lifestyles of the elite and this broadened the gap between the rich and poor. The desperation of people made them vulnerable to other authoritative regimes. This caused nations to be wartorn and underdeveloped. While they are fighting civil war after civil war, Western nations are developing.

Current times

the mischaracterization of these cultures, rapidly growing populations there, growing GDP and need for resources to support these populations

Politics

Many previously colonized nations still have some resources to some small extent. This makes these nations very attractive to rule. Civil wars will break out in these nations just to have control over resources like crude oil. Developed nations like the United States, Russia, China, France or the United Kingdom will support certain militia groups to overthrow their governments.

When one of the developed nations supports a militia group, the others will decide to support the government to suppress this revolution. While maybe the war is fought in the previously colonized state. The true battle is fought between the states supporting the conflict. Oftentimes these proxy wars drag out conflicts and increase the damage that they cause to the people.

Environments

Previously colonized states are slowly developing and are in the early stages of development. This means that most of these countries provide raw materials and some of these countries are manufacturing products out of raw materials. The harvest of raw materials is often done with no regard to the environment. Any regulations set up by the government are poorly enforced. Native populations and animals are put at greater risks of being abused and exposed to harmful substances. Multinational corporations see these nations as a source of cheap labor and would choose to move their manufacturing operations there. This means that the country would have a lot of factories manufacturing things. Working environments for the people there are often not up to regulation and would result in hazards to human health.

Narratives

Toxic negatives against previously colonized states is very prevalent in modern culture. Western narratives describe countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East or South America as underdeveloped and violent. Most of these narratives were created during and after the colonial era. They were justifications as to why Western states could colonize nations. This poor characterization of the situation in these nations leads to ineffective ways being proposed to help these nations. This also creates an underlying prejudice against these nations. Media is taking their conflicts out of context to fit the public's perspective on things.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

People's Republic of China (PRC)

China started the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013. It is an investment project hosted by China that provides funding for infrastructure for countries all around the world. There is a major controversy surrounding the motives of the BRI. Most notably countries like Sri Lanka have fallen into debt-trap diplomacy and lost sovereignty. Countries still turn to the BRI regardless of the consequences because of their desperations. Any development projects funded by Western nations would mean that these nations would have to uphold democratic values. Since previously colonized states are less likely to follow them, they will turn to BRI. China would want to push their plans of BRI as a way of developing previously colonized states.

United States of America

The United States of America started off as a colony of the United Kingdom. They gained their independence through a revolution. Their political systems are inherently based on the United Kingdom's but they switched out the monarch with a president. In terms of language they are almost the same. While the United States could count as a previously colonized state, it is also a state that colonized other nations before. The United States is a very well developed nation with a pretty big economy. Their role in this issue would most likely be providing the investments to previously colonized states. With these investments the United States would also make certain demands that these nations would have to follow. Most likely the United States would use this opportunity to gain influence and spread the ideas and values of a Western democracy.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom was once a powerhouse of colonialism. They had a superior navy that allowed them to maneuver between their colonies. They were feared on the oceans and owned a lot of the known world. The British Empire was very powerful and still lives on today in some form. The Commonwealth is an organization consisting of countries that were part of the British Empire. The British Empire also actively exploited and abused their colonies for their resources. There are famous British poets that wrote racist poems trying to justify their actions. While this may not be the case today, the United Kingdom is trying to pay amends for their pasts. They try and support previously colonized states by participating in fair trade agreements and sending aid to these countries. The United Kingdom is incentivised to make amends but to what extent have they done enough.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Based on agreements ratified by 153 member states, the World Trade Organization (WTO) is an international trading organization that strives to ensure basic rules of fair free trade. This organization is a platform where member states of the United Nations negotiate trade deals, settle trade disputes, and monitor trade fluctuations. It frequently deals with issues such as market regulation, trade wars, and consumer protection. Its goals include implementing guidelines for technical cooperation and economic growth, increasing participation of developing nations in worldwide trade through providing technical assistance and training, mitigating barriers like tariffs to global trade, and decreasing worldwide poverty levels. WTO also partners with other programs, such as but not limited to the World Bank, to build infrastructures like ports and roads associated with trade to ensure fair trade for all. The WTO is going to play a crucial role as a neutral party to oversee any of the investments made. This ensures that the whole process is transparent and fair to both parties. They can also check upon the states at a regular interval to see the progress of development.

Nigeria

Nigeria is a country located in Africa that was previously colonized by the British. Their GDP today is one of the quickest rising in the world but is still plagued by many issues. While the country does seem to be growing at an exponential rate, rural areas are still severely underdeveloped. Frequent droughts and poor allocation of resources makes life really hard on the citizens in rural areas. In the North Eastern part of Nigeria near the borders they are dealing with local insurgencies. The Boko Haram has been a continuous threat to this area and many civilians have been killed. Nigeria in the cities is filled with corruption. SARS policemen are performing extrajudicial searches, arrests, torture and killing. Politicians in Nigeria are embezzling millions of dollars each year from the treasury. All of this instability can be linked back to the vacuum of power left by the British after they vacated the area.

Haiti

Haiti is an island state in the Caribbean. They were previously colonized by the French and revolted during Napoleon's reign. They share a border with Dominican Republic and there is a drastic difference between the states. Haiti was used as a growing plantation for coffee and sugar. Farmers were cheated out of prices for their products. The French heavily exploited the lands just for these resources. The people being suppressed by the French led to a slave uprising that ended French rule. The nation today has very unfertile land because of the colonial plantations. The trees are running out because Haitians cannot afford alternative energy sources. Haiti's poor economical and ecological situation can be clearly linked back to exploitation.

South Africa

South Africa ranking pretty high in terms of wealth and development in Africa had a very troubled past with colonialism. The land was often conflicted between the British and Dutch. This conflict did not exactly make South Africa a war torn country, but it made the whole situation a lot more polarized. Native Africans were often exported from there for the slave trade in America. South Africa mainly suffers from the detrimental damage that apartheid has done to their society. South Africa is often cited as an example of apartheid. It is also a country that is very affected by this segregating system. The segregation between the races created a cultural divide that is still seen. South Africa would focus on investments or find ways to help society in previously colonized states to heal.

Vietnam

Vietnam was colonized by the French from 1887 to 1954. Napoleon III was the French Emperor that conquered Vietnam. The French rule in Vietnam was very harsh and resulted in rebellions. There were not many French citizens that migrated into Vietnam like in Algeria or other French colonies. The French used Vietnam to control the opium, alcohol and salt trade. They sold locals heavily monopolized

goods that benefited the French and disenfranchised the locals, The French leaving Vietnam resulted in the country being split between the North and South. This political instability resulted in a proxy war being fought on Vietnam soil. The Vietnam War was a result of this divide in Vietnam between the North and South. The communist North was backed by the Soviet Union while the South was backed by the United States. Vietnam would argue that colonizers should hold more responsibility in helping the previously colonized states.

Belgium

Belgium under the rule of King Leopold II expanded its territories overseas. They laid claim to the Congo and all of its resources. They plundered the natural resources and landscapes of the country. This left the country very wealthy compared to other European nations. King Leopold II later actually made Congo his own place so that he was the sole owner of the place. This meant that Belgian monarchs took personal advantage over these colonies. This wealth has allowed Belgium to develop very early on. It has a very high standard of life. Their social welfare systems are all very good at providing for their own citizens. While the public of Belgium is aware of the historical harm that their country has inflicted, some action has been taken. Consumer culture is very focused on buying products that come from fair trade. The Belgian government has issued multiple apologies addressing these nations and aid. Belgium would see to the delivery of aid to these countries.

Congo

The Congo was colonized by Belgium. While in the eyes of the Western world King Leopold II did Congo a favor, in reality it was a terrible case of exploitation. A railway project was constructed so that the Congo was connected. This was an infrastructural plan aimed at developing the country. The cost of this railroad system was the lives of thousands of Congolese because of poor working conditions and malnutrition. The people there were subjected to slavery and were forced to work on plantations. The profits only went to the monarch instead of the people of Belgium. The exploitation was for the benefit of one royal family and barely went into the development of the country. This exploitation led Congo to have a hard time having anything to export. This lack of diversity in what they can export results in the country being underdeveloped. Congo would have to be a deciding factor as to how much aid is enough to cover up the harms. Belgium has been helping the nation for some time now but how much is enough?

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1415	According to history, the first foundation of the Portugees Empire and the start of European colonialism.

1526	Portugees finish the first trans-Atlantic slave voyage and marks the beginning of the trans-Atlanting slave trade.
1823	The Monroe Doctrine was issued by president James Monroe and effectively cut out Spanish and Portugees influence in the New World.
1884 - 1885	The historical Berlin Conference happens where major European nations gathered and decided the borders for the African continent.
December 11, 1931	The establishment of the Commonwealth of Nations that consists mainly of countries that were part of the British Empire.

Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

- Promoting Investments for Sustainable Development, 21 December 2020 **(A/RES/75/207)**
- Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 10 December 2020 **(A/RES/75/123)**
- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence of Colonial Countries and Peoples, 10 December 2020 **(A/RES/75/122)**
- Dissemination of Information on Decolonization, 10 December 2020 **(A/RES/75/121)**
- Implementation of the DEclaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the Specialized Agencies and the International Institutions Associated with the United Nations, 10 December 2020 **(A/RES/75/104)**

Possible Solutions

Foreign loans by nations to previously colonized states.

Nations that are more developed in Asia, North America and Europe can provide loans to these previously colonized states. These loans handed out to these nations would allow them to invest in crucial sectors and build infrastructure. The development of the state would ultimately be up to the state and invested where they see fit.

The governments in previously colonized states are very unstable. They often have problems with transparency and corruption. This money has a high possibility to be used for the personal gain of politicians instead of being used to help its citizens. The lack of oversight allows for a lot of things to go wrong. This loan given by less altruistic nations would also lead to debt-trap diplomacy. This debt would be turned into a blackmail and might lead to the loss of sovereignty in extreme cases like Sri Lanka and the BRI.

International private sector investment in previously colonized states.

When private sectors invest in nations, it would mean that the company is expanding into that country. This would lead to the building of factories and jobs for the people there. Companies would not have that big of a political impact on these states. This investment from companies would mitigate the possibility of the country losing sovereignty.

The thing about companies is that they are profit incentivised. Most likely the reason why they moved to previously colonized states is because the regulations there are lax. Poor regulations on these companies would lead to the company exploiting the people and environment. They can provide unfair wages and poor working environments to lower the cost on human capital. They can cut off on environmental regulations and dump their waste in the neighboring pieces of land. This is similar as to what happened back in the colonial times.

Regulations as to how much foreign stakeholders may hold in previously colonized states.

This is an umbrella category for regulations set on external influence. They could limit the total land that foreigners can own in a country. This would effectively limit the possible influence that other nations may have on their land. Limiting ownership of foreigners could also lead to the country making themselves more isolated and relying on itself.

The tricky thing about setting regulations is making sure that the action is still feasible. There must be a balance between making it safe but also attractive for investments. If these limitations were to be too extreme, other nations have no way of helping them. The extreme limitations could also get rid of the potential of some countries and make investments in them as infeasible, turning away the people with money.

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