

## Essay - 3

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Was Colonialism a Necessary Evil for Modern Progress?

### Outline

- ① Introduction.
- ② Europe at the time of colonialism
  - ⓐ A region which evolved from ashes of illiteracy and ignorance to age of reason and scientific discoveries.
- ③ Colonialism: a necessary evil for Modern progress.
  - (a) Establishment of democratic institutions.
  - (b) Establishment of modern infrastructure.
  - (c) Integration of global trade.
- ④ Counter Arguments.
  - (a) colonialism was exploitative system.
  - (b) It led to regional conflicts.
  - (c) It destroyed local culture and ~~diversity~~ diversity.
- ⑤ Rebuttal of Opposing Arguments.
  - (a) Case study of the America.
  - (b) Case study of the Middle East.
- ⑥ Conclusion.

## The Essay.

The period of colonialism is viewed very negatively across the world. For some, it was an exploitative system that led to violation of basic human rights, and extraction of economic resources. Others believe that it caused cultural illusion in the colonies. But many of them do not compare the situation with pre-colonial period. That was the time in which most of the world was under developed and undiscovered. The USA, the most advanced country of today, was unknown to the world before fifteenth century when Columbus discovered it under the instructions of Spanish empire. Likewise, India was an ~~isolated~~ isolated region until Vasco de Gama, a Portuguese explorer discovered the ~~seafarers~~ <sup>sea routes</sup> routes. Similarly the world started to appear different when colonialists started to move their trade and militaries off from their seashores. From central Asia to Far East Asia, from South Asia to South Africa, the networks of railway lines, and shipping routes, were spread. A significant transfer of technology and modern knowledge equipped the

colonies to slip into means  
of ~~living~~ living. Amongst all,  
a blow of democratic values  
blew from the cold corners of  
Europeans colonists to the warm  
deserts of Africa, Middle East and  
rest of the Asia. As a result,  
people got the power to form  
their governments rather than monarchs  
and kings which used to  
rule these regions. In short, despite  
criticism, colonial time can be  
considered as a necessary evil  
for the progress of developing  
world. The modern infrastructure,  
modern democratic values, and modern  
education system in the previous  
colonies - now independent states, is an  
evidence that colonialism was  
a good system in many ways.

Democracy is the most significant  
export that happened after colonization  
of the world by Europeans. Most  
of the world was ruled by monarchs  
Monarchs and kings who had  
absolute powers. India or the sub-continent  
was ruled by Mughals. Most of the  
Middle-East was ruled by Ottoman Empire.  
And these different tribes ruling African  
regions. There were no democratic  
institutions in the form of political

parties, legislative assemblies or voting system. However, Europeans came up with idea of idea of democratic norms. They allowed political parties to operate and seek public support on different issues. As a result, people started to know their democratic rights. Hence they fought for their individual rights. In fact, democracy in most parts of the world is just because of colonialism. The colonizers introduced all the democratic institutions which ultimately resulted into massive movements for independence.

### Democracy

Apart from democracy, another major factor that changed the shape of modern colonies was the European infrastructure. Although, it is a matter of fact that such an infrastructure was developed to extract resources and capital of colonies and send back to parent countries, but it helped the colonies to integrate and modernize in many ways. For example the bridges on Indus river were made by Brit British colonizers.

to irrigate their lands so that  
 they could get cotton, wheat and rice  
 for their parent country.

But meanwhile it helped  
 local farmers to irrigate their lands  
 and increase their earnings. Likewise,

the railway system was built  
 by the British colonizers in  
 their respective colonies so that

armies can be deployed very easily  
 and food and arms should reach

timely. But local people took  
 a huge advantage of the railway

system; travelling became easy, and

trade became widespread. In this way  
 modern schools were built by

the colonizers so that they can  
 spread their language and values  
 inside colonies. But it helped

common men a lot. As they learnt

new literature, scientific knowledge and  
 modern methods of teaching. In short

In short, colonial infrastructure, although  
 built with evil intentions,  
 helped the colonies to modernize in  
 many ways.

Despite the fact that  
 colonialism turned to be a necessary  
 evil for modernization of colonies, there  
 is still a widespread argument that  
 colonization has destroyed colonies a  
 large. For opponents, colonization.

posed a huge hurdle on the way of modernization of the colonies. The most significant argument comes across is that colonizers manifested many ways of exploitation. It is believed that economic resources in the shape of coal, gold, cotton, rice, wheat, jute and other things were taken back to parent countries, leaving colonies helpless and poor. Also

Also, the labour and gender violations in Africa and Asia are attributed with the colonial powers. However, it can not be true in all sense. Some economists believe that due to opening of new trade routes and higher prices in parent countries, farmers and miners preferred to send their raw materials across seashores rather than selling it locally. This was all about business and higher returns which caused an excessive labour hours to be involved.

Conclusively, the colonial system, although not inherently good, turned to be huge blessing for the developing world. As it strengthened infrastructure, brought innovative knowledge, and introduced democratic norms which set the

future trajectories of ~~colonies~~ colonies.  
Despite the fact that the system  
caused economic and human rights  
violation, it led to new trade  
routes and modern human resource  
management techniques that could  
lead the colonies toward growth  
if explored in true sense.