

# Colonialism Defined

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**Colonialism** is the political theory governing colonial expansion and the maintenance of a colonial empire. It is generally associated with a belief that the mores of the colonizer are superior to those of the colonized.

The political theory of post-colonialism argues that many of the problems faced by former colonies are attributable to their colonial exploitation and devaluation. Others argue that while colonialism may be wrong, that need not imply that it has caused all economic problems of the third world. A range of former colonies – including Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Mauritius, and Cyprus – are not poor.

## Percentage of Territories Belonging to the European/US Colonial Powers (1900)

Region	Percentage Controlled
Africa	90.4%
Polynesia	98.9%
Asia	56.5%
Australia	100.0%
Americas	27.2%

## Extent of Colonialism (1939)

	United Kingdom	France	Belgium	The Netherlands	Germany
<b>Area in Square Miles</b>	94,000	212,600	11,800	13,200	210,000
<b>Population</b>	45,500,100	42,000,000	8,300,000	8,500,000	67,500,000
<b>Area of Colonies</b>	13,100,000	4,300,000	940,000	790,000	1,100,000
<b>Population of Colonies</b>	470,000,000	65,000,000	13,000,000	66,000,000	13,000,000

**At one time or another**, every country in North America, South America, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Oceania were colonized by Europeans, with the exceptions of Liberia, Ethiopia, Iran, Pakistan, and Thailand. Only Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Orient remained untouched by colonial hands.