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Class Summary

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Foreword

Chapter One

Introduction to Eurocentrism

Eurocentrism is a cultural phenomenon and worldview that interprets the histories, cultures, and societies of the world primarily from a European or Western European perspective.

Types of Eurocentrism

Historical–Contextual Eurocentrism

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The Historical–Contextual Eurocentrism focuses on the **historical context of European dominance**, its development, and how historical narratives have been shaped to favor European achievements and perspectives. It often emphasises the unique development of European societies, particularly in terms of rationality and progress.

- Marxist Rationality Argument belongs to his school of Eurocentrism.
- Superiority and emphasis of Greco–Roman dominance and inheritance is also part of this argument.
 - I.e., Rome is the only great empire and all else must be compared to Rome.

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Ideological Eurocentrism

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Unique and superior ideology **justify European superiority and the imposition of European norms and values on other cultures**. It includes the belief that European culture is the pinnacle of human development and that other cultures should aspire to European standards.

- Some predecessors of this includes Abrahamic Religion's belief in determinism.
 - These ideas would back up "White Man's Burden" argument in both the history of religious expansion, missionaries, and conquest.

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Residual Eurocentrism

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This refers to the lingering effects of Eurocentric views that persist even in contemporary thought and practices. It can manifest in subtle ways, influencing policies and attitudes even when there is a conscious effort to move beyond Eurocentric frameworks.

- Holding European standards as universalist views and perspectives.
- Example: Mainstream theories in international relations often reflect Eurocentric assumptions about state behavior, sovereignty, and international norms, which may not be applicable or relevant to non-European contexts. This can limit the field's ability to account for diverse geopolitical realities.

- Tolay, J., 2021. Inadvertent reproduction of Eurocentrism in IR: The politics of critiquing Eurocentrism. *Review of International Studies*, 47, pp. 692 - 713.

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Philosophical Eurocentrism

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Chapter Two

Great Divergence

Why understanding the “Great Divergence” is important?

The Great Divergence explains

- Global Inequality, and Political Economic Imbalances.
- The Institutional, and Cultural Differences.
- Future Economic Development.
- The Challenges to Eurocentric Narratives.

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What is Colonialism?

Colonialism is a distinct mode of domination that involves the extended subjugation and political control of one people by another, typically manifesting through a foreign power

establishing direct sovereignty, settling populations, and enforcing legal, economic, and social hierarchies in the colonised territory.