

New Imperialism

Meaning: - New Imperialism refers to the wave of colonial expansion that began in the late nineteenth century and continued until World War I. During this period, many European countries, the United States, and Japan snatched up an unprecedented amount of land around the globe. The competition for overseas territories was fierce. New oceangoing vessels, quicker communication, and improved manufacturing technologies meant that the world was even more interconnected than ever before. It was important for the great powers to snatch up more territory before their rivals could. The Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 kicked off this period of imperialism by establishing common imperialistic practices among the European powers and literally dividing up the world map between them. By the end of the nineteenth century, nearly the entire African continent was colonized by European powers, and much of Asia was as well. The period of New Imperialism ended with World War I and the restructuring of several European nations. By the end of World War II, most of the colonies had achieved independence, and the age of imperialism was over.

The term "new imperialism" is used to refer to a wave of mostly European imperialism that happened in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This wave is said to have been slightly different than the previous period of imperialism in which European countries created empires in the Americas.

For example, the first period had more colonialism (where many people from the "mother country" went to live in a colony) while the new imperialism had more imperialism (where only a few of the Europeans would actually go live in and rule the dominated country). The new imperialism is said to have been motivated more by a desire for economic benefits (new markets and sources of raw material) than the old. It is also said to have been motivated more by a desire to "civilize" and Christianize the rest of the world.

Modern imperialism or imperialism of post-1945 period has been different from the old imperialism i.e. Imperialism of the 18th and 19th centuries. It depicts itself more in an indirect form than in its direct form as it used to be in the earlier times. In other words modern imperialism takes the shape of indirect form of exploitation of the weak and new states by powerful and rich the traditional imperial powers. In it more reliance is upon diplomacy, alliances and international agreements than on the power of sword and gun. As a scholar has puts it, "the states today are seen as units of commerce, industry, rail-roads. ports, strategic bases, raw materials, and markets for goods & for capital. Modern Imperialism exploits these through several subtle means."

The indirect forms of modern imperialism in which it prevails in various parts of "World are as follows:

Methods of Neo-imperialism

1. *through Interference in the Internal States of New States:* - Ignorance combined with low, mostly parochial and *subject* political culture, has been the hall-mark of the political systems of the newly emerged sovereign states. The former imperial powers have their loyalist "Groups" which are involved in active struggle for power in these states. By supporting a particular loyal group to the opposition of other groups, the former imperial powers are in a position to interfere



and influence the policies of the new states. By supporting puppet regimes and by securing desired military or civilian coups in such states, former colonial powers are in a position to exercise control over the policies of these states.

2. *Through the Supply of Arms and Weapons*: - The existence of several disputes and tensions among the new states has been a source of insecurity for them. The need for security has been a continuous and big problem for these states. Consequently, these states have been very keen to secure arms and military equipment from the developed and powerful states. Their inability to become self-sufficient in respect of their military needs keeps them dependent upon the powerful states. The powerful states have always used the supply or sale of weapons and military equipment as means for exercising control over other states.

3. *Use of Foreign Aid and Loans*: - The most common and the most forceful means adopted by the Neo-colonial powers have been foreign aid and loan. The economic backwardness of the new states has been a curse in so far as it has kept them economically dependent upon their former colonial masters and other developed states. The rich and powerful states always use their capacities to give foreign aid and loans as means for securing a desired change in the economy and policies of the dependent and poor nations.

4. *Through control over International Economic Institutions*: - The international economy of the post-war period stands regulated and controlled by a number of international economic institutions like the World Bank, IBRD, IFC, IDA, etc. The rich states have a monopolistic control over these institutions. When the new states try to get aid and loans from these institutions, the rich nations use their control over them for securing favourable and desired economic policy decisions from the poor states.

5. *Through the use of Multinational Corporations*: - The most powerful instruments of neo-colonialism have been the multinational corporations (MNCs). A very large number of MNCs have been formed by rich investors of developed states with a view to control economic and industrial enterprises in all parts of the globe. Through their strong economic potential these exert a big influence on the political and economic policies of the countries in which they have been carrying out their business and trade. Their ability to regulate the flow of technological know-how to the Third World countries also helps them to act as agencies of neo-colonialism. This has been perpetuating the underdevelopment of the Third World.

6. *By creating Economic Dependencies*: - "Economic Dependencies are lowly developed economically backward states whose economies and key financial enterprises are controlled by a foreign power." The foreign control over the economy of an economic dependency is exercised both by the government and the private investors of the neo-colonial power. For selling its raw-materials and other commodities as well as for the import of vitally essential goods, the economic dependency is fully dependent upon the foreign power. The foreign power controls its imports and exports. The top managerial and technical personnel are all foreigners. Sometimes the neo-colonial power runs the industries and other services for the poor and under developed states and pays a fixed percentage of profits as royalty to the economic dependency. The western countries, including America, have been mostly using this instrument for maintaining their control over new states.



7. ***By Creating Satellites***:- “When the economy and political policy of a poor and backward state is almost completely dependent upon a foreign power, it is called a satellite state.” A satellite state enjoys considerably less independence in internal policies than an economic dependency. Satellite states are like autonomous units of the foreign power which controls and regulates the policies and administration of its satellites. The change in policies of the controlling state always leads to changes in the policies of the Satellite states.

Satellite states are of three types:

- a) There are certain satellite states which are controlled by the leaders of the powerful superior state. The policies of the satellites are fully controlled by these leaders.
- b) Certain satellite states are under the direct control and influence of the government of the superior state.
- c) Finally, certain satellite states are located in so close a proximity of the superior big state that these deliberately adopt policies which are akin to the policy of the neighbouring powerful state. Such satellites are always keen to avoid the ‘wrath of the superior state’.

