

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN DIVERSE CONTEXTS

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Table of Contents

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Part 1.

A. Summary

Colonisation

Colonization in Australia was started by the British Royal Navy in 1850 and lasted till 1901 (Colonial period, 2022). During this time the First Nations people that comprised of 500 First Nations groups were subjected to inhuman cruelty, torture, and seizure of rights to lands. As the indigenous First Nations people continually resisted the British onslaught, the white invaders doubled down on their efforts to subdue any kind of resistance offered by the First Nations people. It is estimated that close to 20,000 aboriginal people were killed by the white-knuckled island invaders during the period of colonization. At the same time Europeans, roughly 2000 to 2500 were also killed as a result of this direct conflict (Colonisation, 2022).

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White privilege

White privilege denotes the societal advantages enjoyed by White people in comparison to those who undergo racial discrimination. It is a set of benefits on an institutional level that enables people of white skin colour to dominate the important and powerful positions of the nation's institutions (What is white privilege, 2022). White privilege is prevalent in those countries where the racially White people make up the majority of the population or at least are present at the helm of all political and economic power of that nation. Advantages and privileges assigned by the political institution of a nation, to those people who make up the majority of a population, lead to institutional racism against other races and ethnicities.

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Critical Race Theory

Critical race theory first started as a legal theory developed by Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Cheryl Harris, Richard Delgado, Patricia Williams, Gloria Ladson-Billings, and Tara Yosso (A Lesson on Critical Race Theory, 2021). It is a framework that helps to critique the way social construct of race in the nation and institutionalized racism leads to the formation of a racial caste system that positions people of colour to the lowest tier. Critical race theory (CRT) also states that race interacts with other kinds of identities such as sexuality and gender identity. This theory considers the prevalence of slavery and segregation of those people who represent the minority of the population, still continuing in some major economies, including Australia.

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B.

The colonization of Australia carried out by the British invaders laid the fertile grounds for racial discrimination and abuse meted out to the indigenous First Nations people that continue to be so in the post-colonization period even today. The effort by the British to de-recognize the basic human rights of Nations First people was perpetuated by the later rulers of the island nation Australia. The social, political and economic context of Australia in the post-

colonization and imperialism period gave rise to the notion of white privilege by building on the ideologies of the colonial history that demonstrated the superiority of White-skinned invaders. In order to link racial abuse and discrimination to the institutionally approved mechanism, the Critical Race Theory was one of the many theories propounded. Critical Race Theory proceeds to defeat ideologies of white privilege/supremacy by stating that race whether white or coloured is not a biological definition, rather it is a social construction and relevant only in a social context (A Lesson on Critical Race Theory, 2021). White privilege is built on the presumptuous concept that the white-coloured race is a biologically distinct differentiation among all kinds of races, in reality, is not scientifically valid according to CRT. This theory also points to the contamination of the pillars of the constitution such as the judiciary and legislature and media which knowingly and unknowingly keep stoking the fire of white privilege in clear and plain sight.

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