

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Soc 1101: Summer 2023

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Colonialism & Global Racism

Lecture 9

LECTURE OUTLINE

- **Colonialism**
 - **Colonization and modernity**
 - **Colonization and racism**
- **The psychological impact of colonization**
- **Legacies of colonialism today**
- **Next lecture: Gender**

WHAT IS COLONIALISM?

- “The practice by which a powerful country directly controls less powerful countries and uses their resources to increase its own power and wealth” (*Collins English Dictionary*)
- **Mostly associated with the era of European colonialism (15th century to WW2)**
 - “the process of European settlement and political control over the rest of the world, including the Americas, Australia, and parts of Africa and Asia” (*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*)
- **Closely entangled with “imperialism”**

OSTERHAMMEL'S THREE-SENTENCE DEFINITION OF COLONIALISM

1. "A relationship between an indigenous (or forcibly imported) majority and a minority of foreign invaders.
2. The fundamental decisions affecting the lives of the colonised people are made and implemented by the colonial rulers in pursuit of interests that are often defined in a distant metropolis.
3. Rejecting cultural compromises with the colonised population, the colonisers are convinced of their own superiority and their ordained mandate to rule."

(Source: Osterhammel, Jürgen (2005). *Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview*)

MOTIVES OF COLONIZERS

- **Economic interests**
 - **Natural resources (gold, rubber); land**
 - **Global capitalist market**
- **Pursuit of science and knowledge**
 - **Sample “specimen” of indigenous plants, birds, and persons**
- **The impetus to “bring civilization to” the colonized people(s)**
 - **Christian missions (“The White Man’s Burden” 1899, “Mission Civilisatrice” 1890-1945)**
 - **Language/cultural practices**

COLONIALISM AS THE “SHADOW AND MOTHER” OF MODERNITY

- **“Transition” or “Catastrophe” (Connell 2007 p46)**
- **The “discovery” or “invention” of non-European continents?**
 - **America (Asia, Africa)**
 - **“People without history” (Eric Wolf 1982)**
- **Conquest (always), destruction, enslavement, rapes, genocide (when necessary)**
 - **Congo film**

AMERIGO VESPUCCI IN 1501

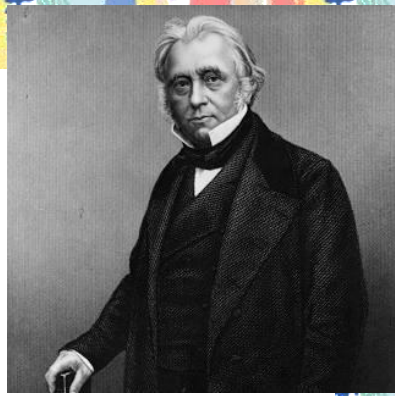


"America came, literally, out of the blue sky that Amerigo Vespucci was looking at when he realized that the stars he was seeing from what is now southern Brazil were not the same stars he had seen in his familiar Mediterranean. What is really confusing in this story is that once America was named as such in the sixteenth century and Latin America named as such in the nineteenth, it appeared as if they had been there forever."

"Who really knew that Incas and Aztecs were living in America and that Chinese and Japanese were in Asia? *The Western Christians, who drew the maps and named the areas, were the only ones who knew.* And how and when did Chinese and Japanese and other people in "Asia" know that they inhabited a continent named Asia?... One answer, however, can be taken as a given: not before 1582."

Quotes from **Walter D. Mignolo 2005, *The Idea of Latin America***"

EURO-SUPREMACY IN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



"I have no knowledge of either Sanskrit or Arabic. But I have done what I could to form a correct estimate of their value. I have read translations of the most celebrated Arabic and Sanskrit works. I have conversed both here and at home with men distinguished by their proficiency in the Eastern tongues. I am quite ready to take the Oriental learning at the valuation of the Orientalists themselves. I have never found one among them who could deny that a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia."

Minute by the Hon'ble T. B. Macaulay, dated the 2nd February 1835.
Thomas Macaulay: first Law Member of the Governor-General's Council



[The Scramble for Africa: Berlin Conference - YouTube](#)

REQUERIMIENTO _____ 1510

REQUIREMENT: PRONOUNCEMENT TO BE READ BY SPANISH CONQUERORS TO DEFEATED INDIANS

The Requerimiento [Requirement] was written in 1510 by the Council of Castile to be read aloud as an ultimatum to conquered Indians in the Americas. It asserted the religious authority of the Roman Catholic pope over the entire earth, and the political authority of Spain over the Americas (except Brazil) from the 1493 papal bull that divided the western hemisphere between Spain and Portugal. It demanded that the conquered peoples accept Spanish rule and Christian preaching or risk subjugation, enslavement, and death. Often the Requerimiento was read in Latin to the Indians with no interpreters present, or even delivered from shipboard to an empty beach, revealing its prime purpose as self-justification for the Spanish invaders.

[The Requerimiento \[Requirement\], Council of Castile, 1510
\(pronouncement to be read by Spanish Conquerors to defeated Indians\)
\(nationalhumanitiescenter.org\)](http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org)



British->International Concessions in Shanghai, China, 1842-1945

- **"The Gardens are reserved for the Foreign Community"**
- **"Children unaccompanied by foreigners are not allowed in Reserve Garden."**

PUBLIC AND RESERVE GARDENS. REGULATIONS.

1. The Gardens are reserved for the Foreign Community.
2. The Gardens are opened daily to the public from 6 a. m. and will be closed half an hour after midnight.
3. No persons are admitted unless respectably dressed.
4. Dogs and bicycles are not admitted.
5. Perambulators must be confined to the paths.
6. Birdnesting, plucking flowers, climbing trees or damaging the trees, shrubs, or grass is strictly prohibited; visitors and others in charge of children are requested to aid in preventing such mischief.
7. No person is allowed within the band stand enclosure.
8. Amahs in charge of children are not permitted to occupy the seats and chairs during band performances.
9. Children unaccompanied by foreigners are not allowed in Reserve Garden.
10. The police have instructions to enforce these regulations.

By Order,

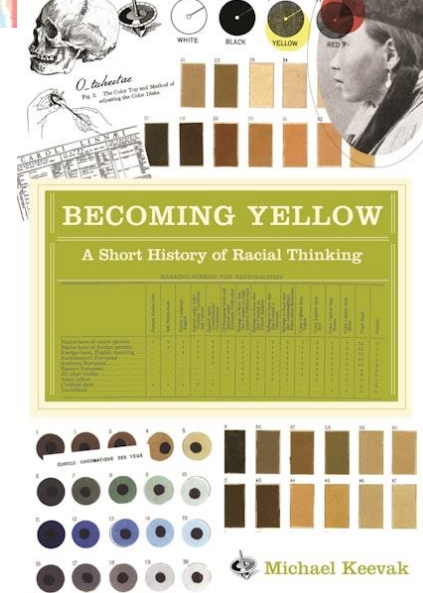
N. O. Liddell,

Secretary.

Council Room, Shanghai, Sept. 13th. 1917.

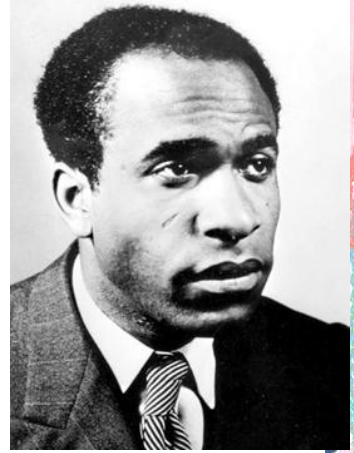
HOW DID ASIANS BECOME "YELLOW"?

- **13-16th century: Marco Polo or Tomé Pires: The Chinese are "as White as us".**
- **Late 16th century: Christians are White(r)**
- **Carl Linnaeus *Systema Naturae***
 - **Asians: Fuscus (1735) -> luridus (1758-9)**
- **Blumenbach 1795**
 - **5-race classification**
 - **the Caucasian or white race; the Mongolian or yellow race; the Malayan or brown race; the Ethiopian or black race; the American or red race**



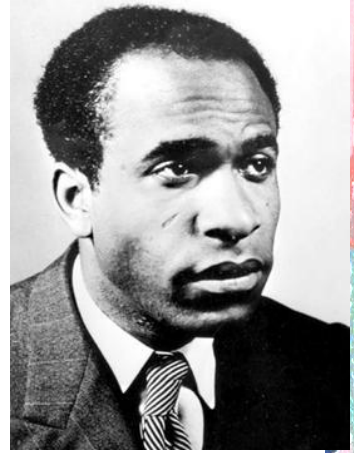
Keevak 2011

PSYCHOLOGY OF THE COLONIZED



- **Frantz Fanon (1925-61)**
 - French colony of the Martinique (les Antilles, Caribbeans)
 - Psychoanalyst, philosopher, Marxist, revolutionary leader and thinker
 - Joined the National Liberation Front (Algeria)
 - *Black Skin White Masks* (1952); *Wretched of the Earth* (1961)

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THE INFERIORITY COMPLEX OF THE COLONIZED: LANGUAGE (Creole vs French)

- **Mastery of the French language** -> "proportionately whiter—that is, he will come closer to being a real human being"
 - "In France one says, "He talks like a book." In Martinique, "He talks like a white man.""
- "that child will be a disgrace to the family
that child will be our curse
shut up I told you
you must speak French
the French of France
the Frenchman's French
French French"
- Hypersensitivity to R-eating -> "Garrçon! Un vè de biè"

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE COLONIZED: RACIAL HIERARCHY & SUBJECTIVITY

- **The White, the “almost White” (mulatto), the Black**
 - “I found that I was proud of it. I was certainly not the only one who had white blood, but a white grandmother was not so ordinary as a white grandfather”
 - “For, in a word, the race must be whitened; every woman in Martinique knows this, says it, repeats it.”
- **Racism beyond the Black-White dichotomy**
 - “The Frenchman does not like the Jew, who does not like the Arab, who does not like the Negro. . . .”
 - “In America, Negroes are segregated. In South America, Negroes are whipped in the streets, and Negro strikers are cut down by machine-guns. In West Africa, the Negro is an animal. And there beside me, my neighbor in the university, who was born in Algeria, told me: “As long as the Arab is treated like a man, no solution is possible.” (p85)

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE COLONIZED: RACIAL HIERARCHY & SUBJECTIVITY

- “In the Weltanschauung of a colonized people there is an impurity, a flaw that outlaws any ontological explanation....For not only must the black man be black; he must be black in relation to the white man. ” (p82)
- “Overnight the Negro has been given two frames of reference within which he has had to place himself. His metaphysics, or, less pretentiously, his customs and the sources on which they were based, were wiped out because they were in conflict with a civilization that he did not know and that imposed itself on him” (p83)
- “Shame. Shame and self-contempt. Nausea. When people like me, they tell me it is in spite of my color. When they dislike me, they point out that it is not because of my color.” (p88)

WHY IS “PSYCHOLOGY” HERE A SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEM?

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE COLONIZED: DUBOIS' "DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS"

- "this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity.
- "He simply wishes to make it possible for a man to be both a Negro and an American, without being cursed and spit upon by his fellows, without having the doors of Opportunity closed roughly in his face."



GLOBAL RACISM & COLORISM TODAY (Dixon and Telles 2006)

- **Pursuit of whiter/lighter skin**
 - **Always: Agricultural labor and sun exposure**
 - **Recent: Colonial & European influences**
- **The Global Skin-Bleaching Industry**
 - **Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, and South Korea**

国际关系

崇洋媚外这个问题究竟是只有中国有，还是整个亚洲都有？

关注问题

写回答

邀请回答

26 条评论

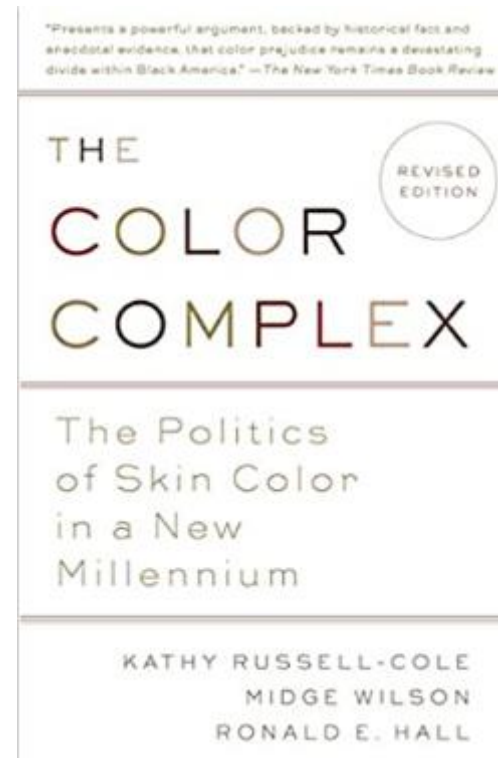
分享 ...

“Is the problem of xenophilic fawning only in China, or in the whole of Asia? - Zhihu (zhihu.com)”

NEXT CLASS

- **Tomorrow's Class**
 - **Gender (England 2010; Martin 2010)**
 - **Sex and Sexuality (Pascoe 2005)**
- **Wednesday**
 - **NO CLASS**
 - **Watch *Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death* on Canvas-Library Reserve**
 - **Short Essay 1 Prompt Available**

GLOBAL RACISM & COLORISM TODAY 2 (NOT ON QUIZZES)



GLOBAL RACISM & COLORISM TODAY 3

- **FOR YOUR OWN REFERENCE;**
- **NOT ON QUIZZES**



[English-language news: BMW's Mini apologizes after meltdown over ice cream at Shanghai auto show | CNN Business](#)