

CRES 10
Day 8 Notes

Elijah Hantman

Final Word on Liberalism

Liberalism had both consequences and benefits. Freedom, democracy, etc. all the things Liberalism can't let us forget it stands for. It also has a focus on capitalism and nationhood which both hides and incentivises abuses against non-citizens and the poor. Liberalism also fails when it comes to understanding and critiquing itself.

Particular notion of what a person is, particular views on what a person is entitled to. People are defined by contrast to non persons.

Aziz Rana Critique of American Liberalism

1. Transforms Historical experiences of oppression into aberrational features of American life. Makes oppression out to be the exception rather than the rule.
2. American founding is presented as an anti-imperial act rather than the start of a new imperial power.
3. Gives a context in which reform is the default and only reasonable action rather than anything more extensive.

When first generation students were telling their story for graduate programs, they started with coming to the US for a better life. They knew that the US is the reason their lives in their home countries became worse. The Story of Immigrants to the US is one that institutions expect, one of gratitude towards the US and gratefulness for the US.

Legitimacy is bought via the espousing of a narrative which is flattering to America. America is a force for good and the odd abuse or infraction is an exception not the rule.

Franchise vs Settler Colonialism

Settler colonialism has colonizers stay. Colonizers are often fleeing or seeking new opportunities. The goal is to replace the natives not mere to extract resources.

Settler colonialism creates a crisis, where later generations of settlers have no where else to go, and no other home except one built on blood and violence.

Built on the elimination and replacement of natives. Elimination is more than just violence but also erasure, and indoctrination. The goal is not just to replace natives physically, but culturally and socially.

If the natives are not killed they must be made like the settlers. Or into something that can be safely subsumed by settler society.

Franchise colonialism is purely about extracting resources. Only the upper class administration is imported, and they do not replace the natives, but extract their labor, resources, land, etc.

Critique is not necessarily opposed. One can acknowledge flaws, then throw up their hands and ignore them. You can hate something and not truly threaten it. Criticism becomes a politics of recognition and is therefore assimilated back into these structures.

Structural vs Sudden Genocide

What is the difference between law and Justice?

UN definition

Genocide as a term comes from after WWII, genocide was established to be acts committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.

sidenote: the US only ratified when a clause exempted the US from prosecution without the consent of the US.

Much of the UN definition covered actions the US was actively or had been actively engaged in.

International Law

International law is often seen as a way of contesting entrenched power and abuse. However it is also a means of enforcing and defending aforementioned power and abuses.

Sudden genocides are about mass killings, they involve the culmination of long term oppression and stigma. They are fast and short.

Structural genocide is about long term removal. Mass killings and sudden genocides can be small parts but are not the whole. It is a genocide which is self-legitimized, it is everything but violence. It is changing the world such that a certain type of person becomes unviable.

Oppression is not invincible. It can be defeated, if rarely. To fight and kill in resistance to oppression is a good thing, victimhood isn't something special or good beyond the fact that the one doing the oppressing is bad.