



Jnanadeepa

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Editorial: Beyond the Colonial Past (pp. 3-4)

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Abstract: The 500th anniversary of the arrival of Vasco da Gama in India gives us an opportunity to assess the impact of colonialism on the life of our people.

Colonialism is a multi-dimensional phenomenon.¹ It is first of all a political reality: the conquest of and rule over alien peoples and their territories. Its original purpose may have been the protection of the lucrative trade of the colonial powers. Gradually it developed into a large-scale economic exploitation of the colonized lands. It also began to exert considerable influence on the socio-cultural life of the colonized peoples. A paternalistic effort to “improve” the life of the people also became part of the programme of the colonial masters. There was, of course, a difference of opinion as to the kind of “improvement” the colonized people needed.

Keywords: Jnanadeepa, Colonialism, Postcolonial theology.

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