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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 oppor­

tunity 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 origi­

nal 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-cul-

tural 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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