Digital Colonization: Breaking Chains Through Responsible Digital Innovation

Sushant Thapa Magar, M.Sc. Business Analytics, School of Business and Management, Royal Holloway, University of London



1. Colonialism(Historical Vs. Digital)

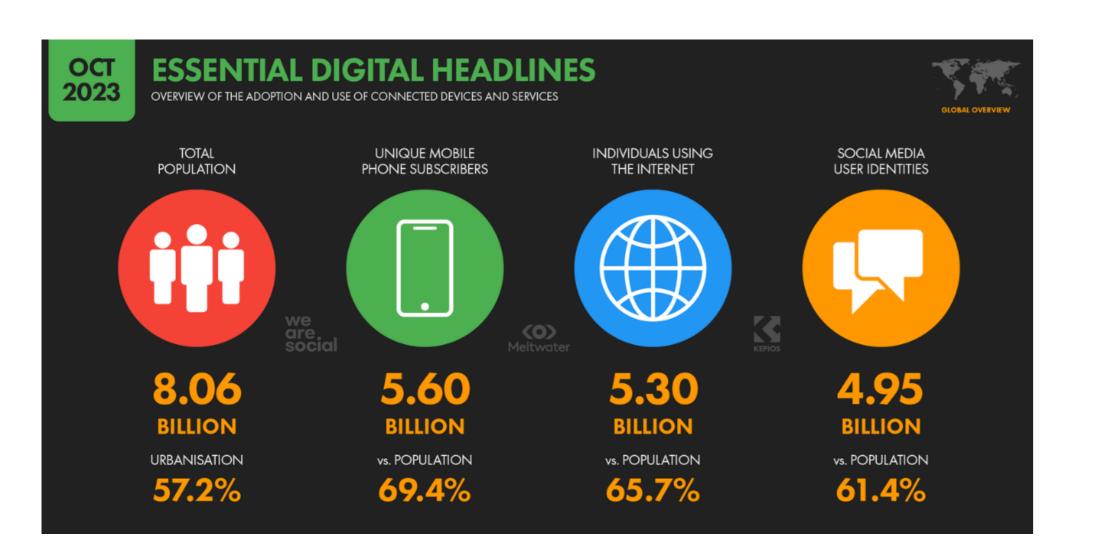


- Colonialism is a practice of subjugation of one people to another.
- Data is being appropriated in place of land and resources.

2. Digital Colonialism justified

- Appropriation of resource.
- Creation of social relations to stabilize the appropriation.
- Extreme concentration of wealth from appropriation.
- Disgusing Ideology

3. The Reach of "The Digital"



4. Digital Colonialism In Action

A. Technology Dominance

- Infrastructure Dominance
- Technological Standards
- Influence in Research & Development
- Privatisation of softwares
- Strategic aquisitions



THE NEW OIL? >>> Google UBER amazon

B. Data Extraction and Exploitation

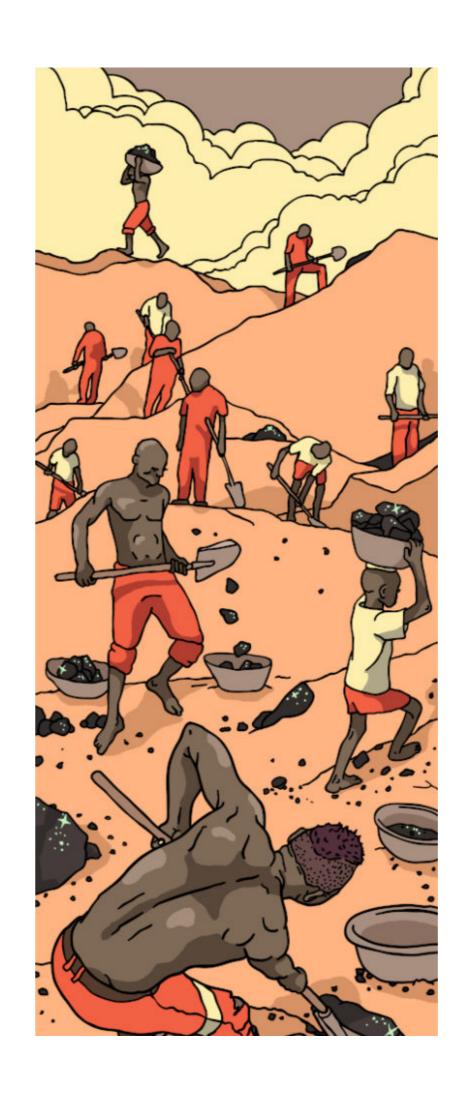
- Data appropriation
- Brain hacking and engineered tech addiction
- Shaping perspectives

C. Labor Exploitation

- Global supply chains and resource extraction
- Cheap Labour for tech operations
- Wage disparities

D. Global control

- Government collaboration in surveillance
- Algorithmic bias
- Cultural and political influence
- Digital divide



5. Breaking "The Chain"

A. Advocate Digital Awareness

- Finding community based languages
- Digital literacy

B. Capturing the public

- Digital Awareness
- Public opposition
- Required Advocacy

B. Ethical Data and Privacy Protection

- Ethical design principles
- Transparencey & Informed Consent
- Ensure legal compliance
- Use of middleware

D. Re-Decentralisation of internet

- Open Source initiatives
- Public digital infrastructures
- Data Localization



References

- Alaimo, C. and Kallinikos, J. (2017) 'Computing the everyday: Social Media as Data Platforms', The Information Society, 33(4), pp. 175–191. doi:10.1080/01972243.2017.1318327.
- Couldry, N. and Mejias, U.A. (2018) 'Data colonialism: Rethinking big data's relation to the contemporary subject', Television & Earny; New Media, 20(4), pp. 336–349. doi:10.1177/1527476418796632.
- Here are all the reasons it's a bad idea to let a few tech companies monopolize our data (2020) Harvard Business Review. Available at: https://hbr.org/2018/03/here-are-all-the-reasons-its-a-bad-idea-to-let-a-few-tech-companies-monopolize-our-data (Accessed: 29 November 2023).
- Kemp, S. (2022) Digital 2022: Global Overview Report DataReportal Global Digital Insights, DataReportal. Available at: https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2022-global-overview-report (Accessed: 23 November 2023).
- Kohn, M. and Reddy, K. (2023) Colonialism, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Available at: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/colonialism/ (Accessed: 23 November 2023).
- Kwet, M. (2018) 'Digital colonialism: US empire and the new imperialism in the Global South', SSRN Electronic Journal [Preprint]. doi:10.2139/ssrn.3232297..
- Kwet, M. (2019) Digital Colonialism is threatening the Global South, Al Jazeera. Available at: https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2019/3/13/digital-colonialism-is-threatening-the-global-south (Accessed: 28 November 2023).
- Lyon, D. (2014) 'Surveillance, Snowden, and Big Data: Capacities, consequences, critique', Big Data & Dat
- Martínez-Bravo, M.C., Sádaba Chalezquer, C. and Serrano-Puche, J. (2022) 'Dimensions of digital literacy in the 21st Century competency frameworks', Sustainability, 14(3), p. 1867. doi:10.3390/su14031867.
- Zuboff, S. (2019). Surveillance capitalism and the challenge of collective action. New Labor Forum, 28(1), 10–29. https://doi.org/10.1177/1095796018819461