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International Relations

Lecture # 14

Topic:

Theories of Imperialism: Dependence and Interdependence discourse

Imperialism

- According to Lenin:
 - Imperialism - The Highest Stage of Capitalism.
- The financial strangulation of the overwhelming majority of the population of the world by a handful of 'advanced' countries.
- An emphasis upon the repatriation of profits as a central mechanism of underdevelopment strongly restated in Baran's Political Economy of Growth.

Imperialism

- The major shift in emphasis between this later position and that expounded in the original edition of Imperialism is quite clear, and involves that process of politicization of the theory of the international economy.
 - The politically motivated suppression of basic structured conflicts between classes in favor of conflict among nations.

Imperialism

- This shift allowed an alliance between popular forces and national bourgeois fractions against the developed imperialist powers.
- But only at the expense of the erosion of the integrity of the theory of imperialism as a special case of theory of capitalist development.

Imperialism

- After the Second World War critiques of imperialism were increasingly rooted in the periphery rather than in core proletarian parties.
- They reflected the class compromise necessary in the formation of united fronts against imperialism.

Imperialism

- Lenin had subtly laid the groundwork in economic analysis for abandonment of the hitherto accepted equation of internationalization with homogenization.

Imperialism

- From Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism – Vladimir I. Lenin
- Chapter # 10: The Place of Imperialism in History
 - Economic quintessence of imperialism is monopoly capitalism.
- Chapter # 05: The Division of World Among Capitalist
- Monopolist capitalists combine cartels, syndicates, trusts, etc.
 - Divide among them the whole internal market of the country.
 - Impose their control on the industry of that country.

Four Principle Manifestations of Imperialism

- First, monopoly arises out of concentration of production at an advanced stage of development.
- Second, monopolists have accelerated the capture of raw material.
- Third, they have taken control of major banks.
- Fourth, monopoly has grown out of colonial policy.

Why there is a need of Imperialism?

- **Cecil Rhodes – King of Finance.**
 - I was in East End of London and attended the meeting of unemployed, shouting bread, bread, and bread.
 - On my way home, I convinced of the importance of imperialism.
 - This is a solution for a social problem in developed country.

Why there is a need of Imperialism?

- In order to save 40,000,000, we must acquire new lands:
 - to settle the surplus population
 - to provide new markets of good produced by them in factories.
- So, if you want to avoid civil war, you must acquire imperialism.

Dependency Theory

- **Dependency theory**, an approach to understanding economic underdevelopment that emphasizes the punitive constraints imposed by the global political and economic order.
- First proposed in the late 1950s by the Argentine economist and statesman Raúl Prebisch, dependency theory gained prominence in the 1960s and '70s.

Dependency Theory

- According to dependency theory, underdevelopment is mainly caused by the [peripheral](#) position of affected countries in the world economy.
- No establishment of manufacturing capacity in the periphery.

Dependency Theory

- Monopoly finance capital of the core
 - without the support of which no productive activity is possible
 - defends the value of its existing industrial investments in the core itself.
 - higher-than-average rate of profit
- Prohibits industrial development in the periphery and consigning the periphery to the role of secured supplier of raw materials.

Dependency Theory

- Underdeveloped countries offer cheap labour and raw materials on the world [market](#).
- These resources are sold to advanced economies, which have the means to transform them into finished goods.

CASE: Latin American States

- For example, in the case of Latin American countries, after their formal independence from their colonizers.
- Their relationship with the United States has become much more important than their postcolonial connection to Spain or Portugal.
- Although the United States did not officially colonize other countries, but controls land and goods through the means of neoliberal globalization.

- It is clear that in the case of Latin America the dependency switch from the former colonial powers, Spain and Portugal, to the United States.
- The core-periphery distinction didn't break rather led to the fostering of global inequalities along the North-South divide.

Lenin's theory of imperialism

- **Lenin's theory of imperialism** revolves primarily around the systematic exploitation of the poor economies by monopoly capital based principally in the rich economies.

Schumpeter's Theory of Imperialism

- Schumpeter, "imperialism is the objectless disposition on the part of a state to unlimited forcible expansion".
- Schumpeter's definition, as defensive imperialism.
- For a state merely to hold on to empire or dominion would not seem to be compatible with imperialistic drive—the insatiable drive toward expansion.

Schumpeter's Theory of Imperialism

- Even if such a defensive attitude were to result in further conquest—another specific naval station or colony or province—this action would then not denote "expansion for expansion's sake.
- Dependency: On the basis of Security.
- **Note:** Why there is a need of imperialism?

Mohammadan Imperialism

- To spread religious teachings
- Expansion of land was not the main motive.
 - Economics was not the basis of that imperialism.
 - Dependency: On the basis of religion.
- **Note:** Why there is a need of Imperialism?

Readings

- <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.917.4522&rep=rep1&type=pdf>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/dependency-theory>
- <https://www.e-ir.info/2016/11/23/dependency-theory-a-useful-tool-for-analyzing-global-inequalities-today/>

Glossary

- Core Countries
- Semi-Periphery Countries
- Periphery Countries
- Capitalism

