
European Colonial Expansion & Its Aftermath

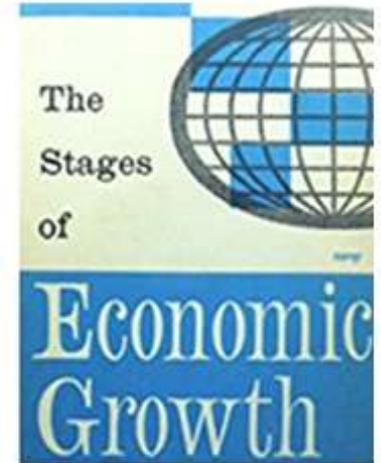
The Historical, Ecological and Cultural Consequences of 1492



An Interactive Online Teaching Initiative
created for
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as a project of the
Young Scholars Online Learning Initiative

by
Timothy C. Weiskel

Research Director, Cambridge Climate Research Associates
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The Principal Ecologic, Economic and Political Legacies of European Colonialism

31 July 2019



Files

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Sharing

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Deleted files

Personal

Only you



Dropbox > YSOLI > 2019 - Colonialism Participants

Name ↑

Modified ▼



Alice - Zhang Yifei

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Ashley - Cong Ashley

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Class - Assignments

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Class - Resources

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Class - Weekly Questions

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Jane - Wang Jianyi

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Britain begged the Chinese Emperor for access to the “tea” market that was controlled by the Chinese Empire.... But the Emperor refused.... This precipitated the “Opium Wars.”

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/11/19/empires-opium-trade-empire-episode-4-bbc-one-excerpt-britain-and-china/>



Hong Kong (from space)

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2019/07/30/how-hong-kong-changed-countries/>

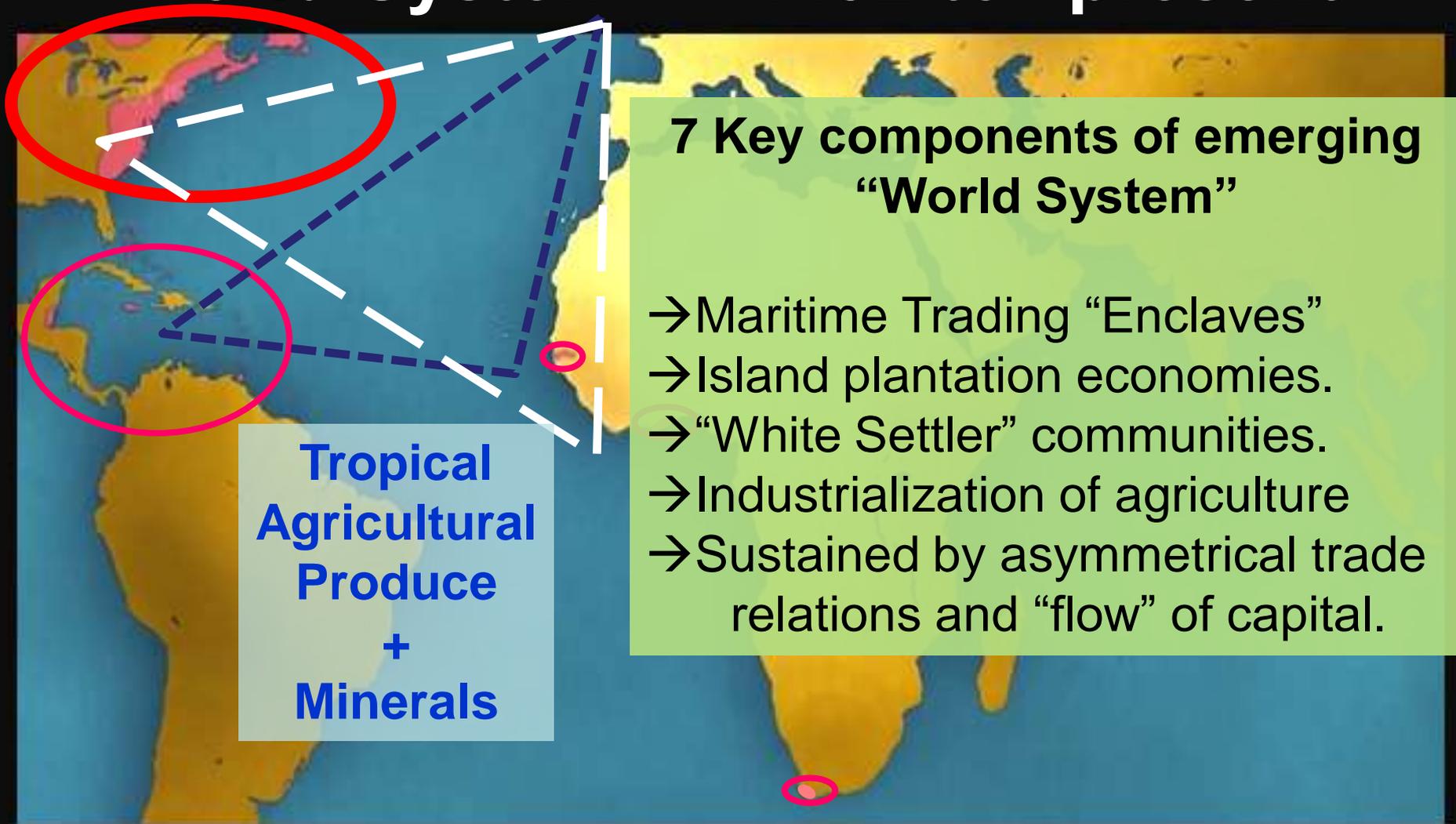
Over time a wide variety of *native tropical plants* – more than gold plunder – made European maritime empires “rich”



See excerpt from

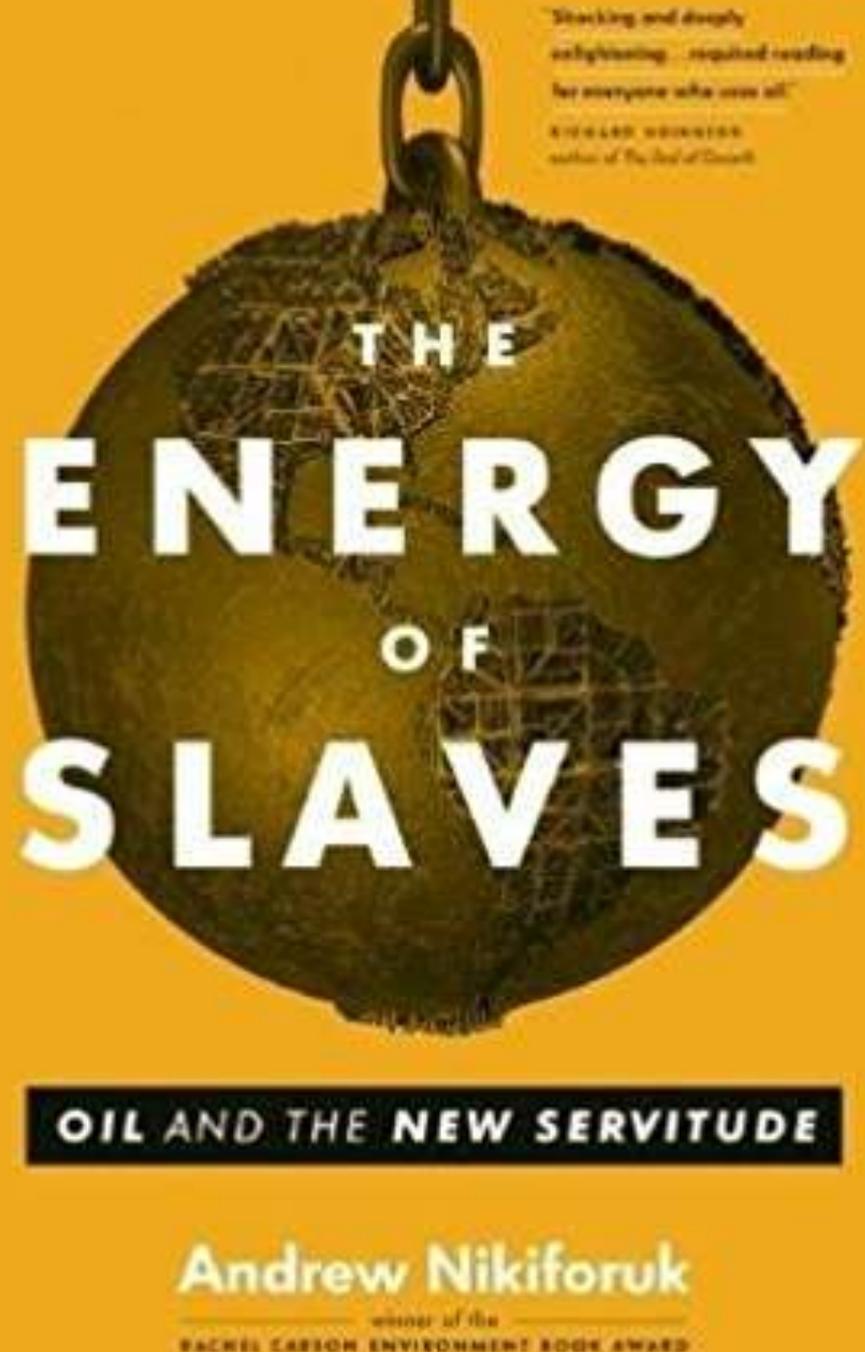
<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/11/19/bbc-empire-episode-4-making-a-fortune-jeremy-paxman/>

Characteristics of the Emerging “World System” – 1492 to “present”



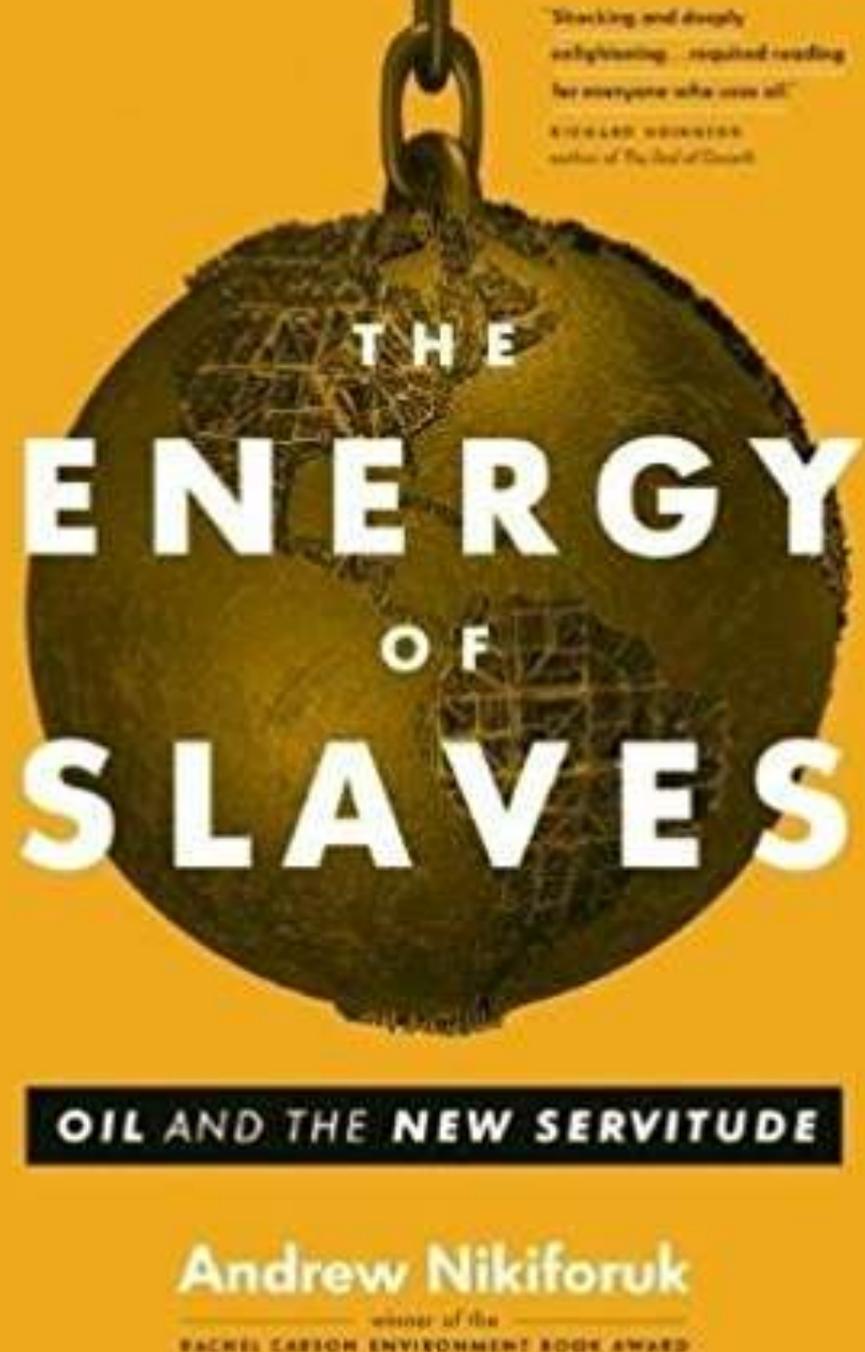
Prior to the 1780s it all rested on the energy of slaves.... .an energy which was *relatively* “expensive” – *the most expensive of the 3 inputs to production:*

- * Land (was cheap)
- * Capital (was available)
- & * **Labor** (which had to be imported ! thousands of miles....)



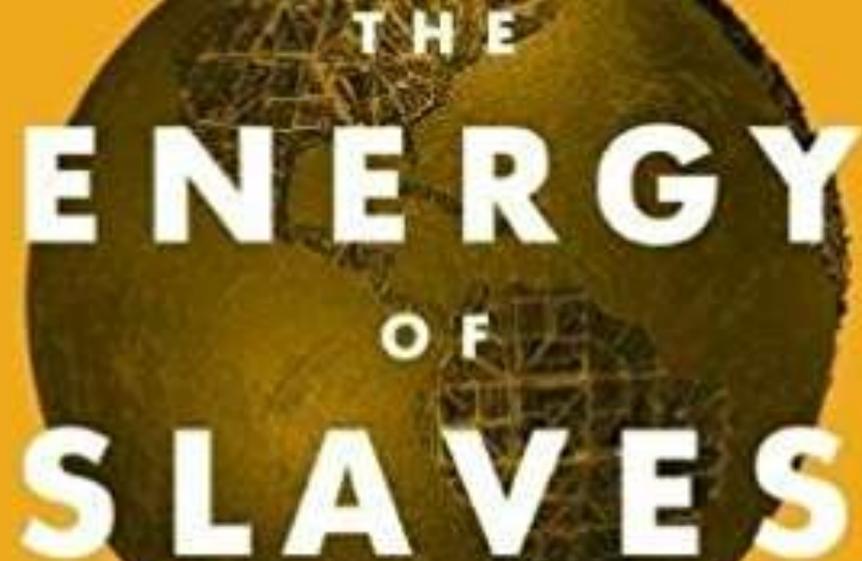
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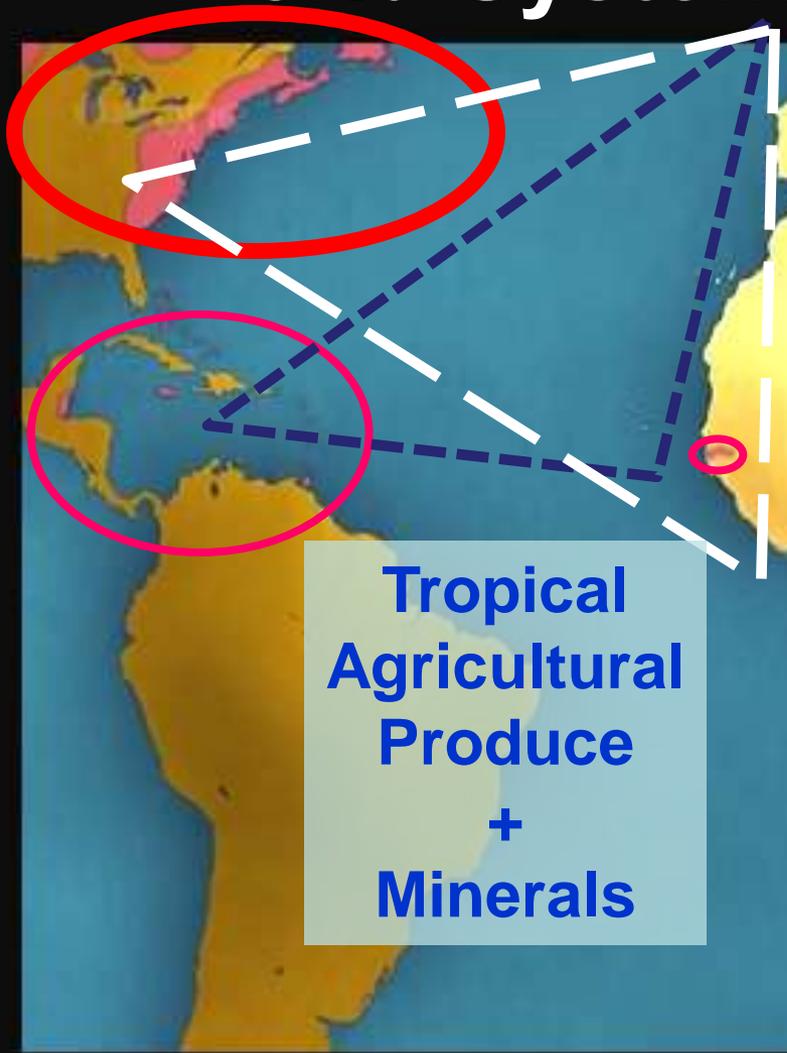
THE
ENERGY
OF
SLAVES

OIL AND THE NEW SERVITUDE

Andrew Nikiforuk

winner of the
RACHEL CARSON ENVIRONMENT BOOK AWARD

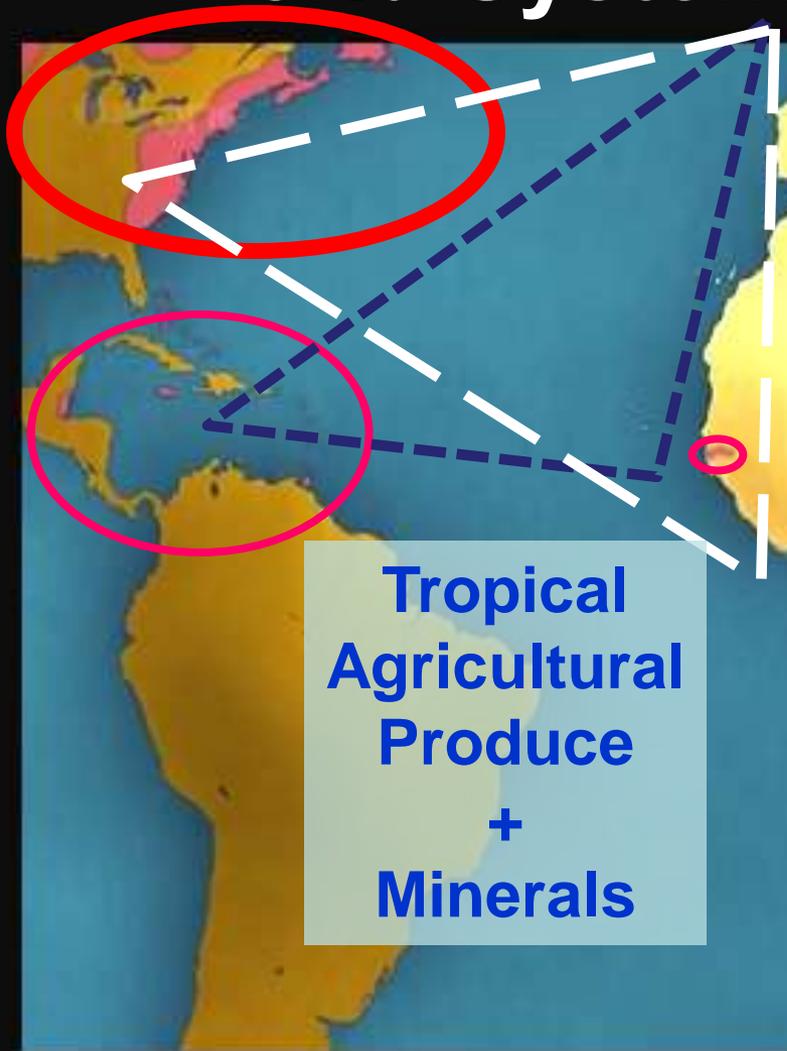
Characteristics of the Emerging “World System” – 1492 to “present”



7 Key components of emerging “World System”

- Maritime Trading “Enclaves”
- Island plantation economies.
- “White Settler” communities.
- Industrialization of agriculture
- Sustained by asymmetrical trade relations and “flow” of capital.
- Private capital was “invested overseas” for raw materials & expanded markets for sales.

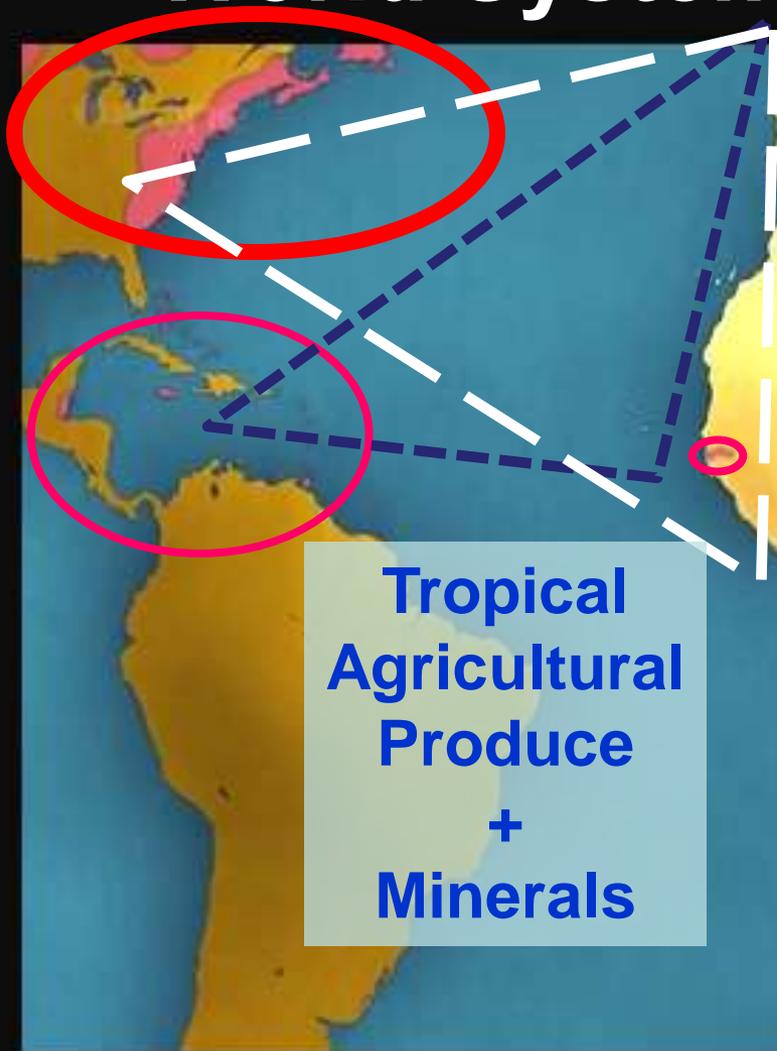
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Characteristics of the Emerging “World System” – 1492 to “present”



**Tropical
Agricultural
Produce
+
Minerals**

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- **Expectations of continuous growth** created worldwide.

Let's keep in mind, then....

The historical evolution of European colonialism over time –

both in terms of

1) how it differed from previous modes of existence

Let's keep in mind, then.....

The historical evolution of European colonialism over time –

both in terms of

1) how it differed from previous modes of existence

AND

2) in terms of how it evolved from roughly 1492 until the late 20th centuries.....

Historical Evolution of Cultural Worldviews

(with emphasis on succession of colonial worldviews
in “Modern History” – ie. 1492-to-present)



1 M BCE

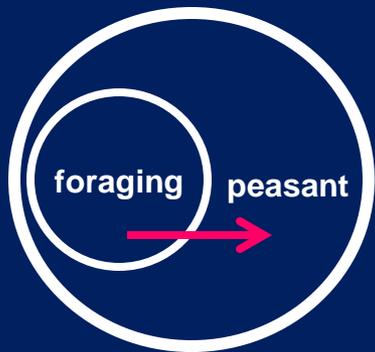
Present Day



History

Historical Evolution of Cultural Worldviews

(with emphasis on succession of colonial worldviews
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1 M BCE

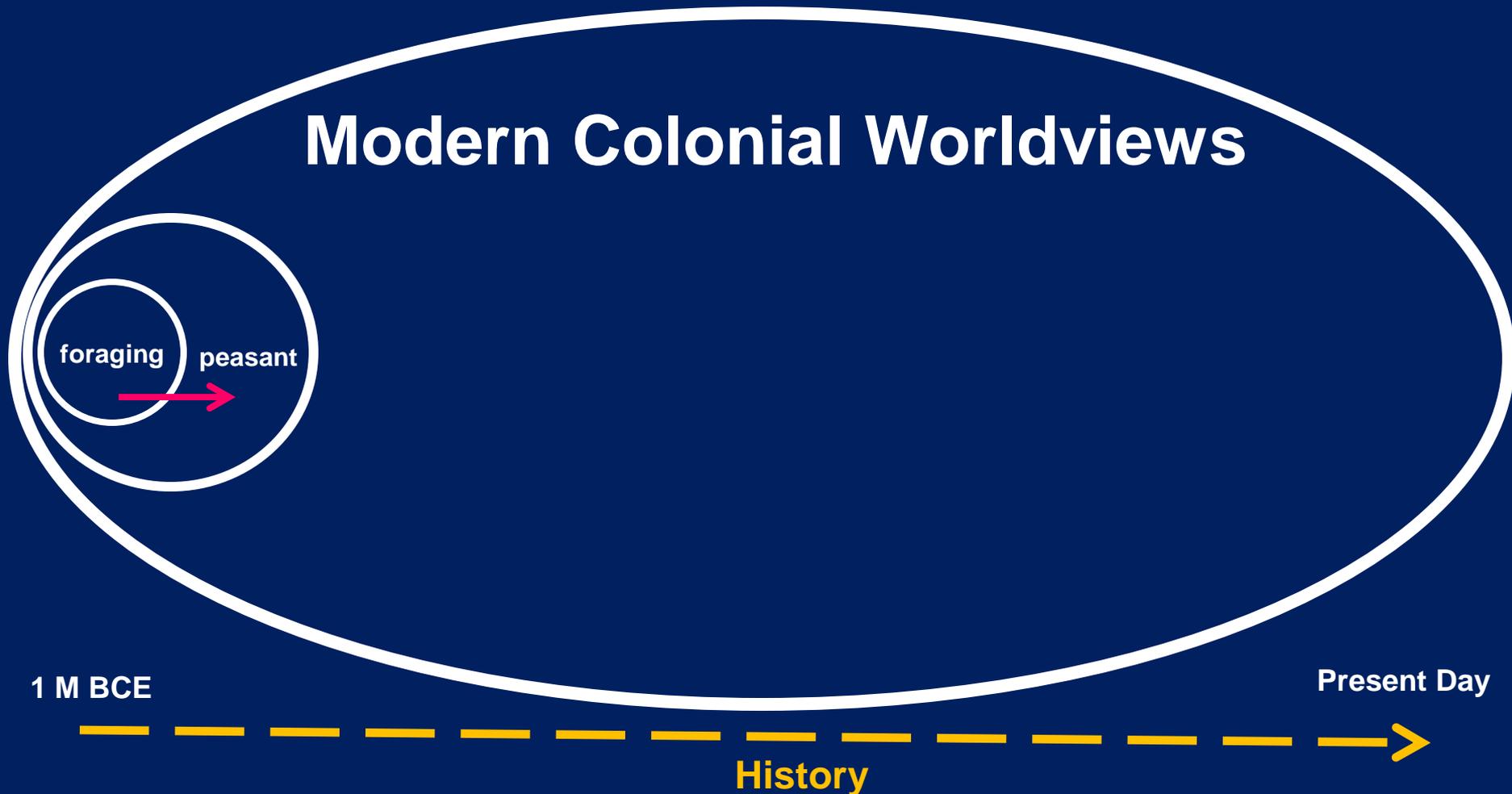
Present Day



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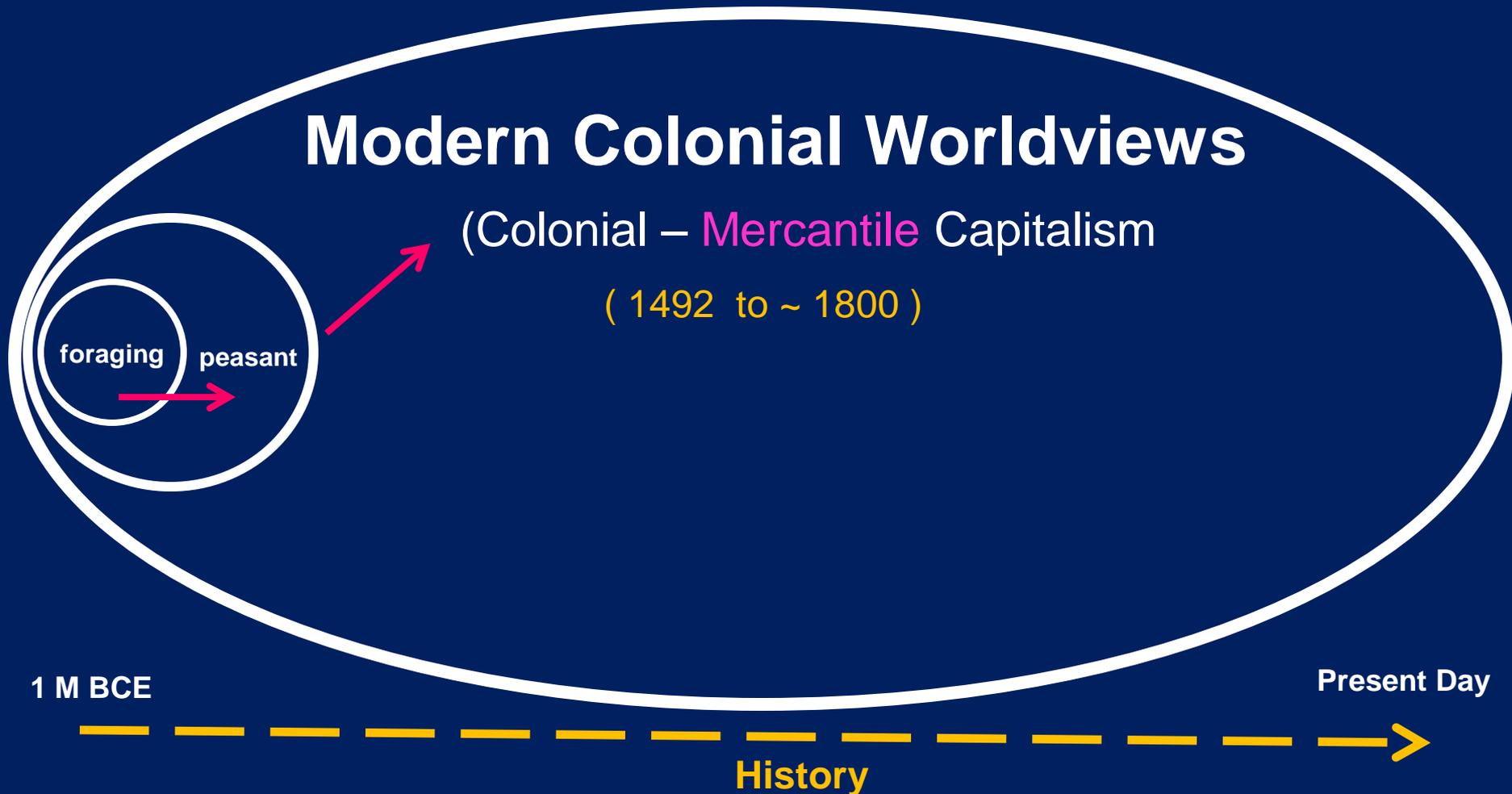
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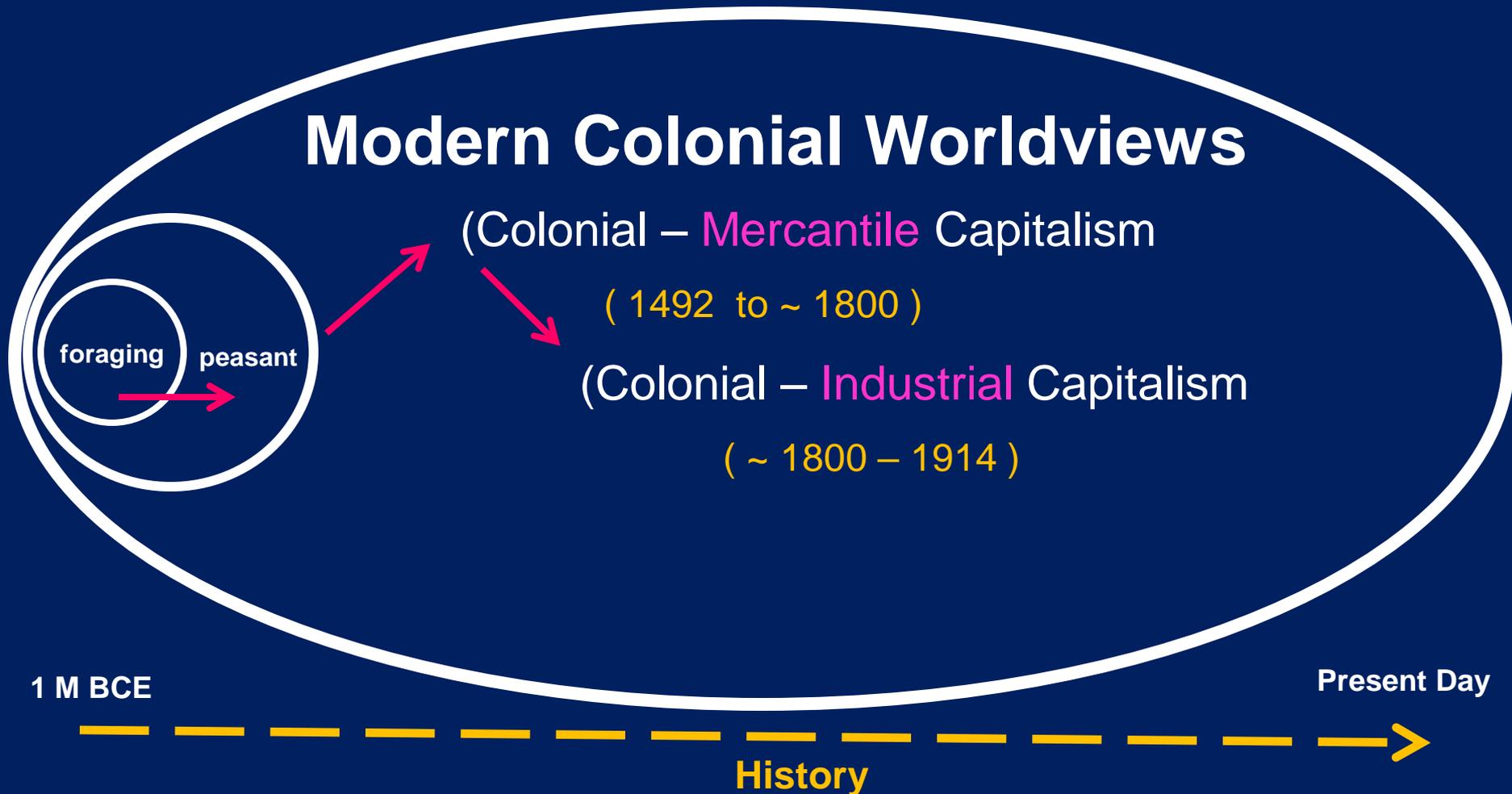
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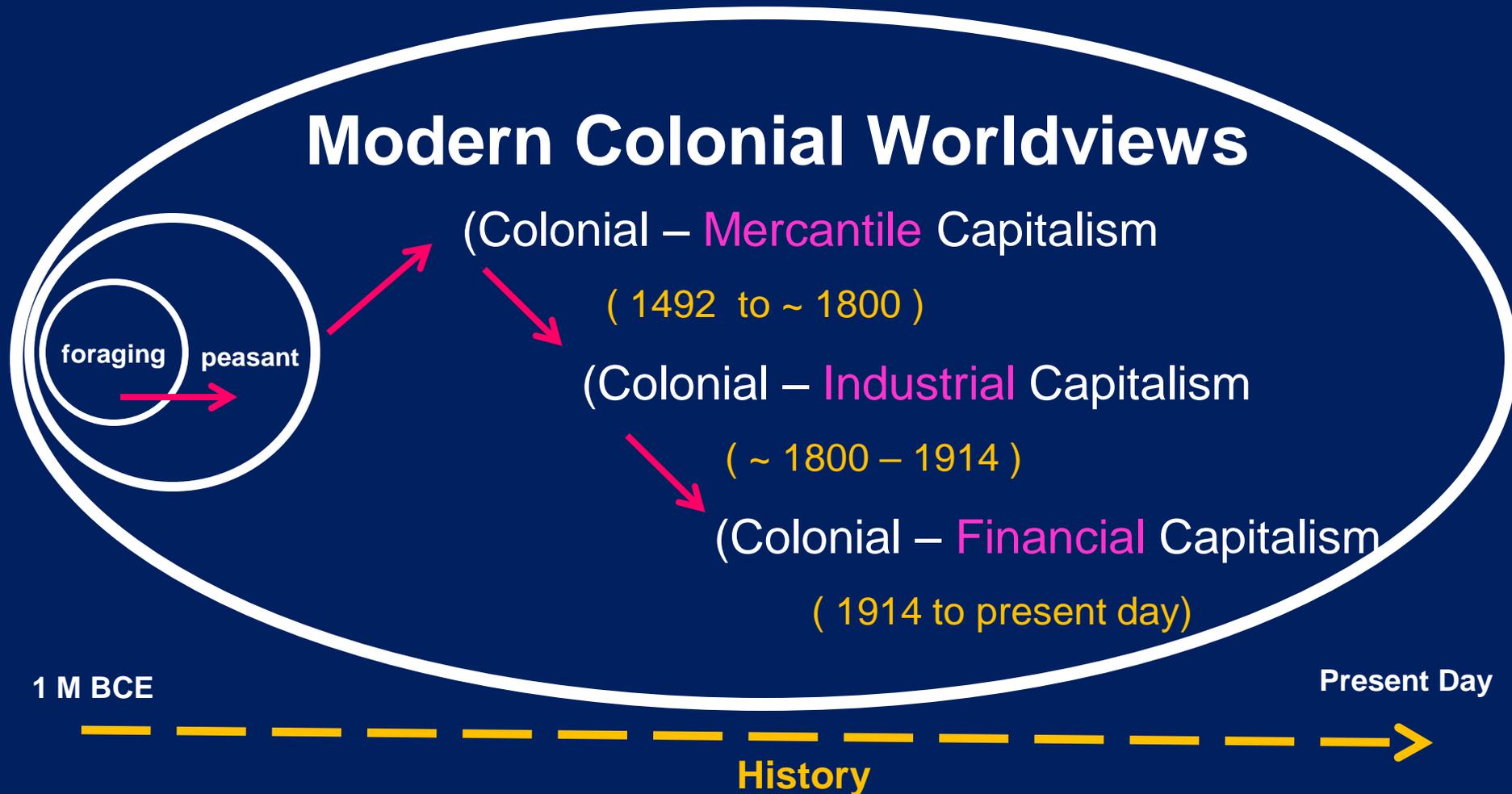
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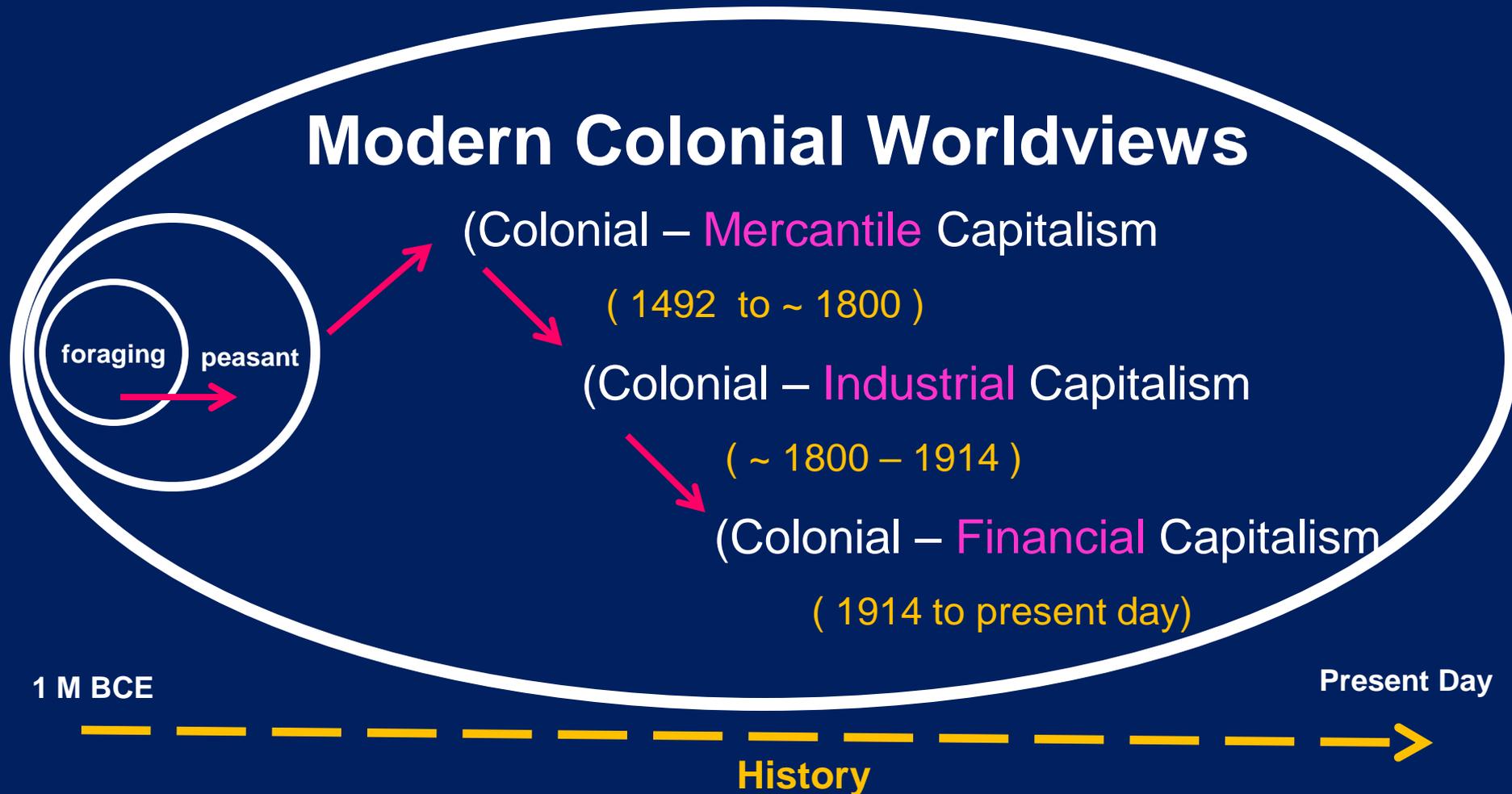
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An overview of the online course
structure and sequence

Course Session Sequence

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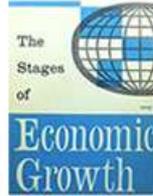
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The

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Economic
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The Industrialization of Empire and the
Growth of Overseas "Investments"

24 July 2019

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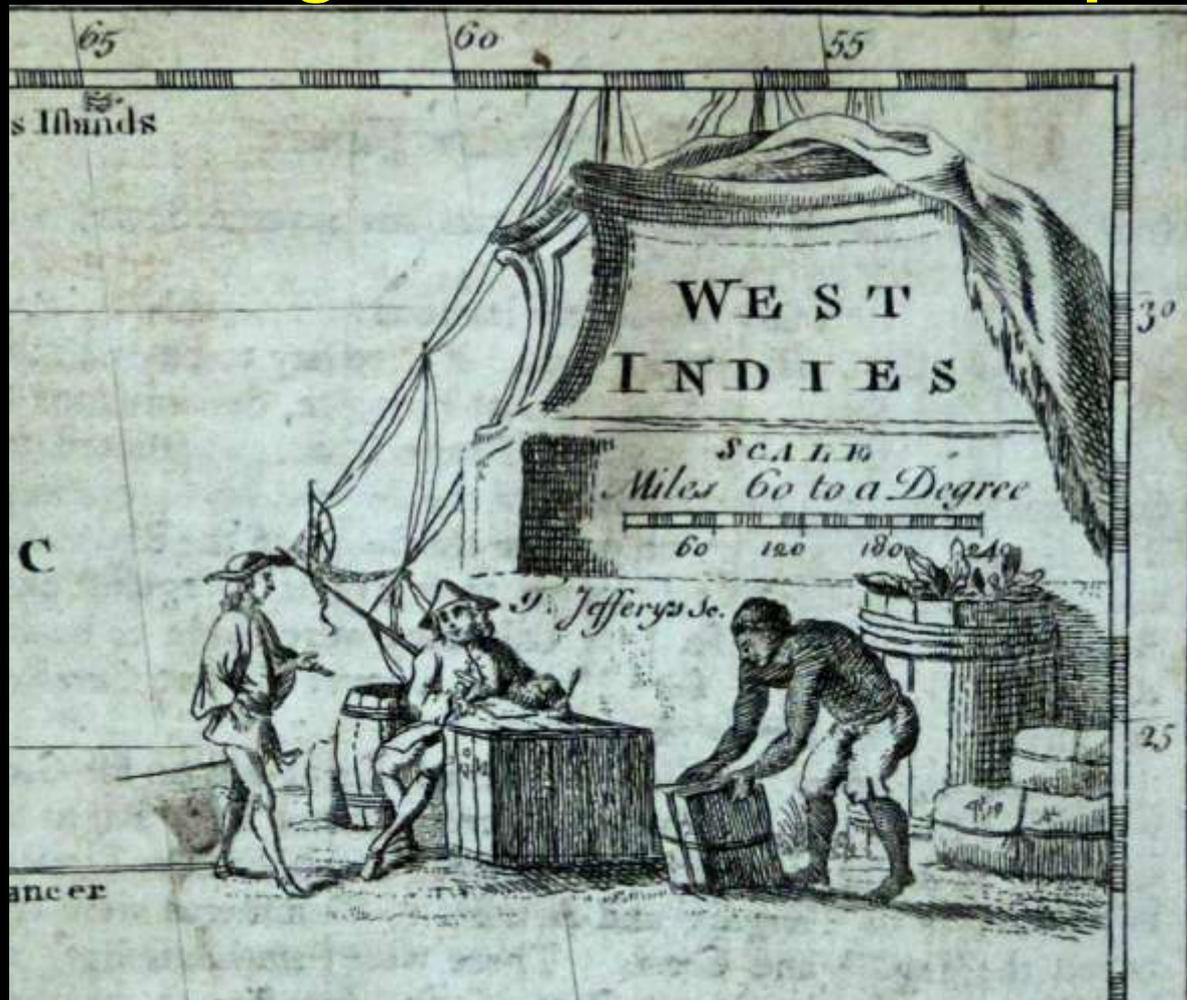
Economic
Growth



The Principal Ecologic, Economic and
Political Legacies of European
Colonialism

31 July 2019

Mercantile colonialism was based on plantation economies growing tropical agricultural products with slave labor in a pattern of “triangular trade” with Europe



But in the “industrial” phase of colonialism this changed dramatically.



“Maritime Empires” consisted of widely dispersed coastal ports dominated by fortified “castles”. These were developed for the long-distance trade of “high-value-to-weight ratio” items, like gold and spices....and eventually human slaves.

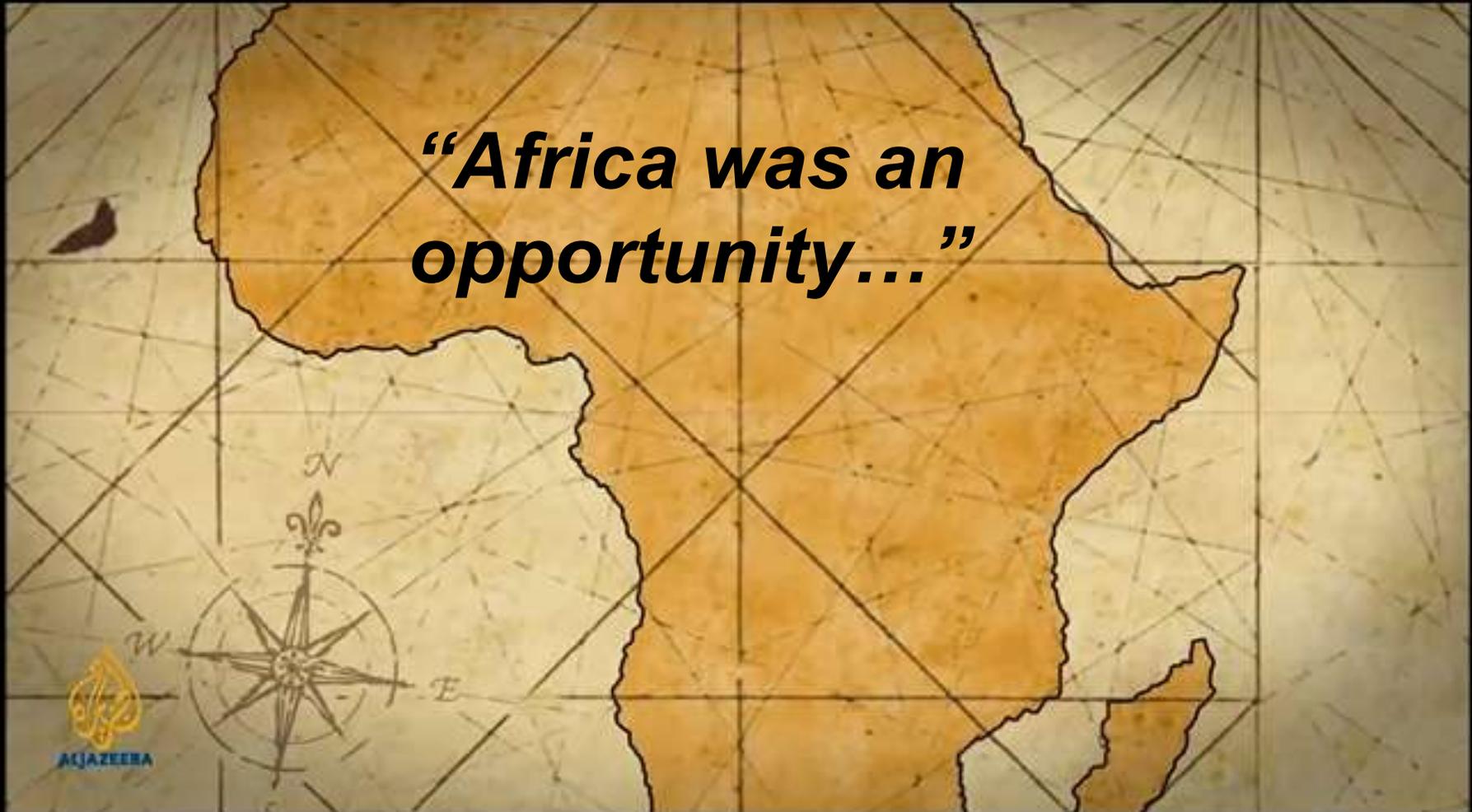
Throughout most of the 19th century the interior of Africa was not known...



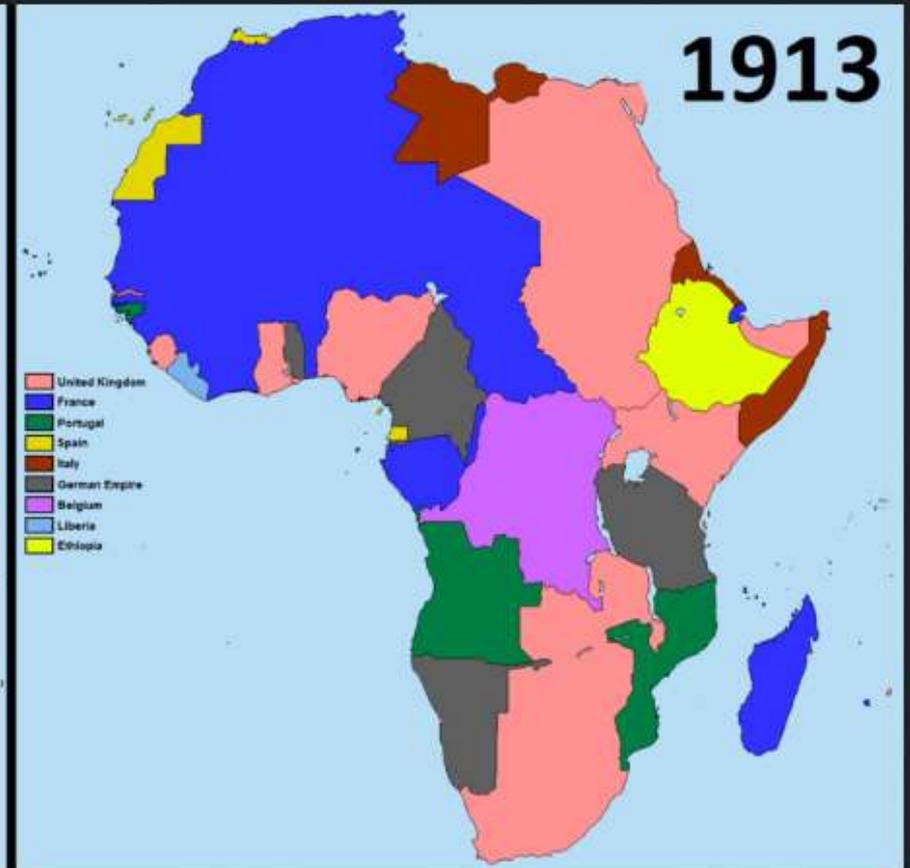
<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/03/15/africa-states-of-independence-the-scramble-for-africa-2/>

Throughout most of the 19th century the interior of Africa was not known...

“Africa was an opportunity...”



But there was a radical transformation of Africa in just 33 years...



There were a mixture of motives
for European “conquest”...



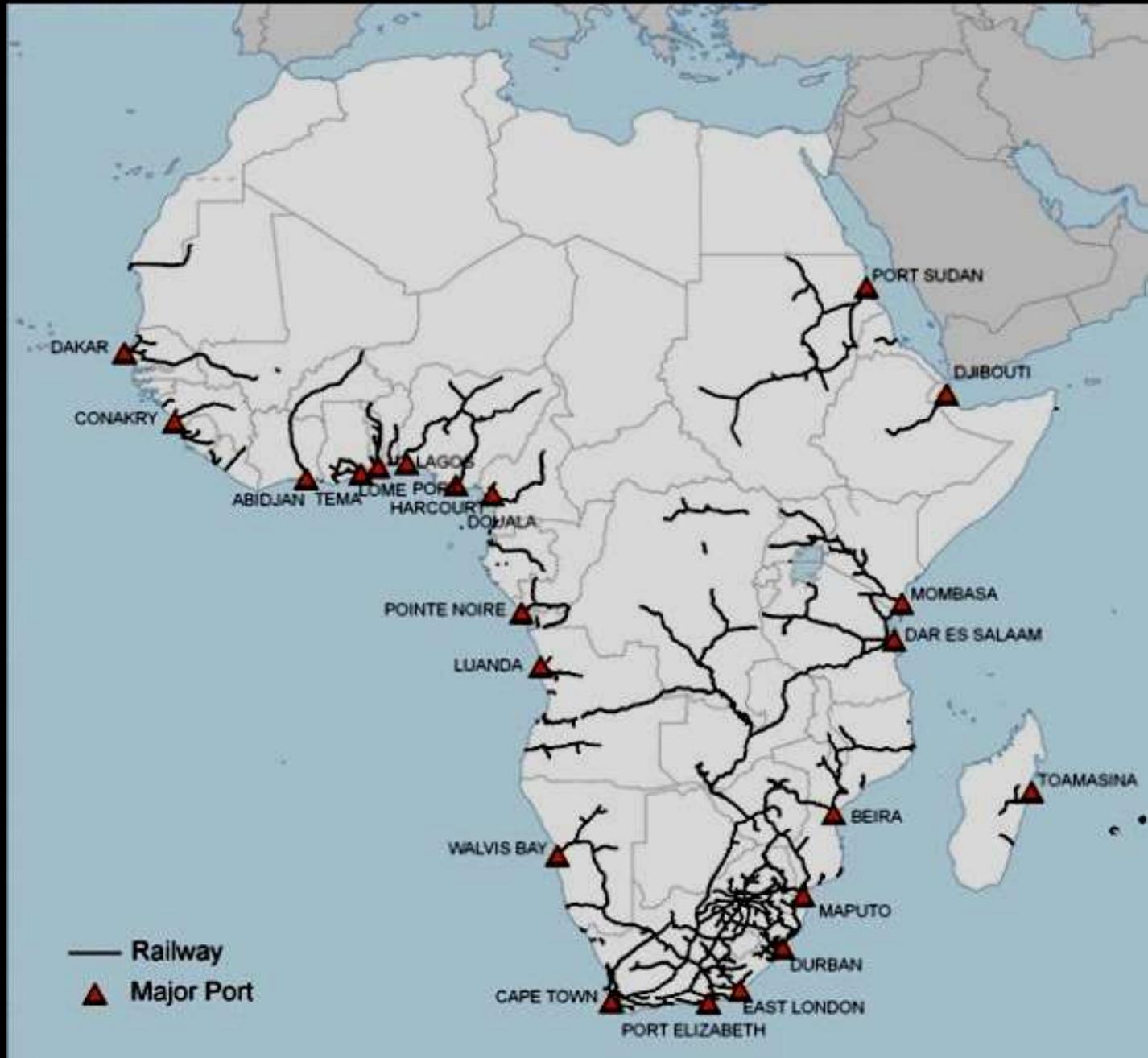
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Whatever the different motives, the political outcome was clear...and the economic outcomes were similar in each colony.



African territories were sought for their potential “raw materials” AND their potential “markets.” Very rapidly territorial “boundaries were drawn in ‘scramble’ of preventive occupation.

African railroads mimicked the rivers – rivers and rails were aimed at “draining” Africa of its resources.



Africa was also important to Europe for its manpower – military manpower recruited for inter-European wars.



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/03/15/africa-states-of-independence-the-scramble-for-africa-2/>

After World War II nationalist leaders emerged to challenge the legitimacy of European colonial rule and they won “independence” as new “states.



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/03/15/africa-states-of-independence-the-scramble-for-africa-2/>

What has been the legacy of colonialism?



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/11/25/colonialism-and-impact-on-africa-development-chinese-interest/>

What has “development” been so difficult in Africa?



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/11/25/colonialism-and-impact-on-africa-development-chinese-interest/>

What has China's role been in Africa?



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What about China's larger role in the world economy? And Africa?

Noam Chomsky on "The So-Called Rise of China" (2017)

Posted on [November 25, 2017](#) | [Leave a comment](#)



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/11/25/noam-chomsky-on-the-so-called-rise-of-china-2017-2/>

What kind of “investments” have the Chinese made?

China ranks number one in jobs creation in Africa

Posted on [November 25, 2017](#) | [Leave a comment](#)



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/11/25/china-ranks-number-one-in-jobs-creation-in-africa/>

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<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/11/24/chinas-african-gold-rush-101-east/>

What kind of “investments” have the Chinese made?

Talk Africa: China Africa Agriculture Co operation

Posted on [February 27, 2016](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



[CCTV Africa](#)

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2016/02/27/talk-africa-china-africa-agriculture-co-operation-2/>

What kind of “investments” have the Chinese made?

'Land-grab' for food security - 18 Nov 09

AlJazeeraEnglish 24,920 videos   Subscribed 



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2014/08/04/land-grab-for-food-security-18-nov-09-2/>

How Africa is Becoming China's China

Posted on [July 27, 2019](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



Published on Jul 27, 2019

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2019/07/27/how-africa-is-becoming-chinas-china-5/>

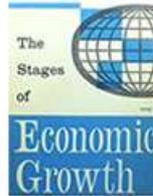
For next week, please review the sequence of lectures over the course... and think about the problems we now face in common as a whole human community.

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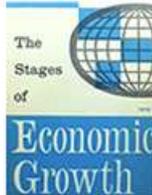
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The Stages of
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The Principal Ecologic, Economic and Political Legacies of European Colonialism

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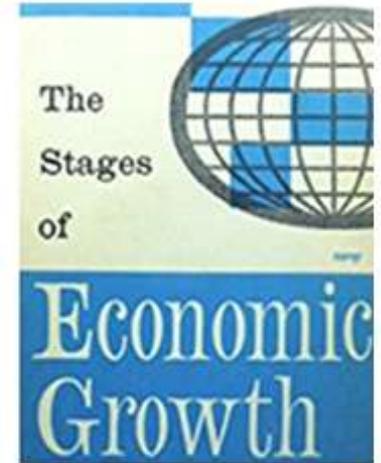
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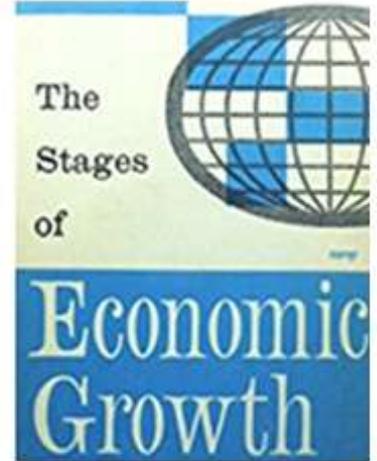
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The Principal Ecologic, Economic, ~~and~~
Political ^{and Cultural} Legacies of European
Colonialism

(at the beginning
of next class)

31 July 2019



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00:21
0/41

Executives 'Are Legally Obligated To Act Like Sociopaths,' Former Corporate Lawyer Says

July 31, 2019



Businessmen and shoppers walk along Madison Avenue on Nov. 1, 2011 in New York City. (Spencer Platt/Getty Images)



00:21

47:54



With [Meghna Chakrabarti](#)

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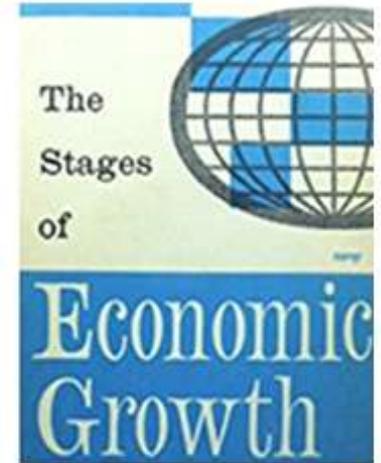
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The Post-Colonial World and the Global Problems it Must Address

*Main topic
for next week.*

7 August 2019
