

IWCE- Imperialism

- **“The ideas of the ruling class are the dominant ideas of any age”**
Gramsci's idea of cultural hegemony
- Iwce, Plebs League and Council of Labour Colleges important in establishing a separate ideological line of education preventing incorporation into liberal education of working class until 1970's
- Current expansion of HE and dearth of political education sees liberal education dominate in HE and centres individualism rather than class.
- Exclusion of the majority of working class from debate
- Leads to exclusion of debate or recognition of some issues.
- Also diminution of free speech and no platforming
- Gilets-jaune, anti semitism and anarchist Rovics accused of fascism and others

Imperialism- Recognition and debate

- 1945-75 Years of revolution and collectivism
- Nationalisation and public control
- Post war de-colonisation and separate economic policy of “import substitution”
- Fukayama and “end of history”
- Ended by rise of neo liberalism, collapse of the Berlin Wall and separate ideology
- Growth of “globalisation” and opposition through Genoa, Seattle and indigenous campaigns
- Return to global capitalist economic competition US, Russia, China
- Hobsbawn- Defeat of left in England 1910-14 Great Unrest and left in Germany 1932

Acceptance and Growth of Imperialism

- Left/liberal acceptance of globalisation as internationalism
- Alliance of neo-cons and neo liberals to form the “bourgeois bloc”
- Re-aligning of global institutions to form economic imperialism-IMF, World Bank and WTO to form the Washington Consensus
- Restrictions on developing world managing own economies
- Privatisation, free movement of capital and corporate dominance
- Against nationalisation and public ownership
- Dominance of natural resources oil, food, minerals by corporates.
- Four companies control global food supplies.
- Ideological dominance through academia, Davos, Basle Committee, Trilateral Commission, Institute of Economic Affairs, Project for a New American Century etc
- Interference in local democratic elections and affairs eg. Eastern Europe, S.America

- Sanctions as economic warfare
- Little recognition of climate, social justice or localism

Economic Imperialism supported by military action

- Often outside of UN authority or tenuous legal rationale
- Aghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Libya, Syria, Yugoslavia
- Often hidden agenda of resource ownership
- Supported by the private sector military actors Haliburton, Blackhawk

Ukraine

- Battle for resources – land, oil, food
- Re-emergence of nuclear conflict
- Huge numbers of western arms committed
- New entrants to NATO heightens tension
- Western arms conditional on privatisation and foreign ownership
- End game of “regime change” in Russia
- Heightened tension with China
- Pilger-The Coming War on China- film <https://vimeo.com/277068625>

Personal

- first in four generations not to go to war
- increasing propaganda
- polarisation
- fears for children
- ostracising of alternative thought

Realisation of cultural hegemony

- Confusion on the left with little opposition to hegemony
- Infection of individual liberalism
- Class v Identity
- Nationalism v internationalism v Imperialism
- State v social collectivism v individualism

Reading

- Globalization Unmasked – Petras and Veltmeyer-

In this book the authors contend that “globalization” is little more than imperialism in a new form. They argue that the “inevitability” of globalization and the adjustment or submission of peoples all over the world to free market capitalism depends on the capacity of the dominant

and ruling classes to bend people to their will and convince people that their interests are the peoples interests.

- Imperialism in the 21st Century- Globalization, Super exploitation and Capitalisms Final Crisis

Imperialism in the Twenty-First Century is a seminal examination of the relationship between the core capitalist countries and the rest of the world in the age of neoliberal globalization. Deploying a sophisticated Marxist methodology, Smith begins by tracing the production of certain iconic commodities-the T-shirt, the cup of coffee, and the iPhone-and demonstrates how these generate enormous outflows of money from the countries of the Global South to transnational corporations headquartered in the core capitalist nations of the Global North. From there, Smith draws on his empirical findings to powerfully theorize the current shape of imperialism. He argues that the core capitalist countries need no longer rely on military force and colonialism (although these still occur) but increasingly are able to extract profits from workers in the Global South through market mechanisms and, by aggressively favoring places with lower wages, the phenomenon of labor arbitrage. Meticulously researched and forcefully argued, Imperialism in the Twenty-First Century is a major contribution to the theorization and critique of global capitalism.

- Masks of Empire- Edited by Achin Vanaik

Masks of Empire assembles a series of important critiques of the new US imperialism by some of the finest minds working in contemporary political and social theory. It aims for the first time anywhere to delineate, analyse and evaluate the legitimizing discourses of the imperial agenda of the United States. By uncovering the economic conditions as well as the ideological façade of the neoliberal US regime, it exposes the various ways through which the United States seeks to extend its hegemony. Further, it suggests how one can morally and practically address the real problems behind the smokescreen created by this empire project.