

Table 1

## Impacts and Lasting Effects of Colonialism

Impacts of Colonialism	Current Problems Stemming from Colonialism
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Colonies existed only to meet the needs of colonizers; the rights of indigenous populations were ignored.</li> <li>2. Colonies were seen only as a source of raw materials and a market for the goods produced in the mother country; they could not operate in their own best economic interests.</li> <li>3. Trade and manufacturing restrictions were imposed on colonies. For example, manufactured goods had to be purchased from the mother country and not produced in the colony.</li> <li>4. Colonial powers destroyed traditional land-tenure practices of shared land use; traditional practices were supplanted by private ownership of the land.</li> <li>5. Local populations were pushed off the land to make way for large estates and plantations owned by Europeans. Dispossessed farmers were then used as cheap labour on plantations and in a variety of other industries. The best land went to Europeans in the form of large plantations and concession companies.</li> <li>6. Land that had been used to grow traditional food crops that sustained the local population was used to grow cash crops such as tea, coffee, sugar, bananas, and cacao, which were sent to the mother country. People who were once self-sufficient became dependent upon imported food.</li> <li>7. Resource-based industries paid little attention to environmental protection.</li> <li>8. Colonial powers imposed foreign political systems that rarely recognized and respected the traditional governing systems of the people in their colonies.</li> <li>9. Colonial powers trained local residents to hold less important administrative jobs and to serve in the army.</li> <li>10. Colonial powers created new countries by imposing boundaries that did not take into account traditional tribal boundaries. The boundaries were simply drawn on maps to meet the needs of competing colonizers.</li> <li>11. Colonizers imposed their culture on the people living in the "new" lands.</li> <li>12. Colonizers built transportation infrastructures that served their commercial needs rather than those of the local population.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Many colonies have no history of democratic governments and are accustomed to autocratic leaders.</li> <li>2. The colonies were kept poor when they could not sell goods to the highest bidder; in some cases, this poverty has continued to the present day.</li> <li>3. Trade restrictions delayed the growth of, or destroyed, local manufacturing. This sector never developed in many former colonies.</li> <li>4. Private ownership meant that a few wealthy people owned a great deal of land. Some people had only enough to support themselves, and others had no land at all. These patterns of land ownership continue today, and as a result, many people are landless, while a few wealthy people control much of the land.</li> <li>5. Today, people who do not own land still provide cheap labour for plantation agriculture and industries, often owned by transnational corporations. Indigenous farmers were restricted to growing food for local needs on less productive land; this remains the case today in many former colonies.</li> <li>6. Cash crops are still grown instead of food crops for the local populations. Now, however, the cash crops are sold to large corporations based in developed countries. Today, people in former colonies are often reliant upon imported food.</li> <li>7. The lack of concern for environmental protection continues today. The result is considerable environmental degradation and a lack of environmental regulations.</li> <li>8. Former colonies continue with the political system that was brought by the colonizers, and disregard traditional practices that may be more appropriate. There is often a history of conflict between the modern governments of former colonies and Aboriginal groups who wish to be accorded self-governance.</li> <li>9. After independence, the trained locals often ended up running the former colonies, whether elected or not. Frequently, they were not representative of the population (e.g., they may have been recruited from a particular tribal group).</li> <li>10. Today, many countries suffer from civil war because of internal cultural or linguistic differences originally created by European map makers who did not take tribal boundaries into consideration (e.g., the civil war between Tutsis and Hutus in Rwanda).</li> <li>11. The dominance of the colonial culture has sometimes caused the local culture (native dialects and valuable traditions) to appear inferior and, consequently, to disappear.</li> <li>12. The infrastructure built by colonizers may not adequately serve the most populated areas today.</li> </ol>