**Burnell, Randall & Rakner: Politics in the Developing World 4e**

**Study questions**

**Chapter 2**

1. If the idea of postcoloniality is fundamental to explaining politics in large parts of the developing world today, why do the politics appear to differ so much from one country to another?
2. What are the most notable features of the colonial experience for understanding the politics of developing countries today?
3. Does the claim that the colonial experience shaped much that came later in the politics of former colonies give sufficient weight to the legacies of the precolonial society and politics?
4. What were the most important differences between the colonial impact experienced by the continents of Africa, Asia, and the Americas in regard to the influence on later political development?
5. How did the timing of colonization affect different patterns of colonization?
6. Were the differences between the way the British, French and other colonial interventions were conducted abroad sufficiently large to have different effects on the way the ex-colonies governed themselves after independence?
7. Is there anything specific about the politics of developing countries today that can be explained by reference to the historical experience of the slave trade?
8. Should the citizens of developing countries be compensated in some way for the slave trade of former centuries, and if so, how?
9. To what extent can colonial 'divide and rule' tactics be blamed for ethnic and religiously-based conflict in contemporary developing countries?
10. What are the positive legacies, if any, of colonial rule in (most) developing countries?
11. To what extent did the manner in which colonial rule was ended in different developing countries affect their subsequent political development?
12. What is the usefulness of the term “post-colonial” for understanding contemporary politics in these countries?
13. Give an example of a country that has been relatively effective in getting rid of negative colonial legacies, and discuss how it achieved this.
14. What are the limitations of applying path-dependency theory for explaining political and economic outcomes of developing countries today?
15. What is meant by the expression “colonizing the mind”?
16. In what regards do colonies which experienced extensive European settlements differ from those that did not?
17. How can the concept of ’extraversion’ inform our understanding of Africa’s history?
18. To what degree has geography influenced patterns of colonialism?
19. Why have the institutional and ideological legacies of colonialism prevailed to such a large extent?
20. Discuss the paradox of British and French colonial rule and their liberal state ideology.