

Chapter 11: Post-colonialism

- IR showed some interest in colonial and post-colonial relations, but only from the perspective of great power interests.
- During the cold war period, great powers competed over influence in newly independent countries.
- Unwilling to choose between Western and Soviet bloc patronage, some post-colonial state regimes met at international conferences and formed the non-aligned movement to create a Third World bloc.
- The Third World was able to show some power over the great powers through OPEC and by demanding an NIEO.
- But the agendas of and for the Third World did not take into account the lives of average people in post-colonial settings.
- Post-colonial studies started with an interest in the lives and knowledge of people of subaltern statuses in India.
- With little information on subaltern life, early post-colonial writers turned to post-colonial fiction for insight.
- Fiction as a data source that highlights life within particular cultures has conventionally been eschewed by the field of International Relations.
- Some scholars in International Relations, however, have brought post-colonial fiction and culture to their work. This approach is very prominent in feminist International Relations.
- It is important to bear in mind Gayatri Spivak's question of whether the subaltern can speak or whether the Western researcher ends up putting that speech into dominant Western frameworks.
- World-travelling methods encourage researchers and subalterns to find common meeting points that bring the Western researcher closer to the subaltern world.
- Some post-colonial work builds theory that follows and expands ideas on colonization and resistance developed by anti-colonial intellectuals such as Frantz Fanon.
- Edward Said is an important influence on postcolonial theory-building through his analysis of Orientalism.
- Homi Bhabha, another important figure in the field, argues that colonials constructed the Orient from their own fantasies and desires but could not capture or control hybrid colonial identities and dissemiNations.
- Contemporary theorists remove the hyphen from the term post-colonial to indicate that the current era is postcolonial and has both continuities and discontinuities with colonialism.