

A brief history of the worldview of colonisation

What do you mean by colonization?

Part I: A brief history of the worldview of colonization 1.0

What do you mean by colonization?

According to the Oxford dictionary, colonization means taking control over the native population of an area.

Today, the West has a negative idea of colonization. For most people, it means controlling people, oppressing them, abusing them, and disregarding human rights. But control can also be understood as a principle of order. Parents can be in control of their children. It means that there are order and freedom in the family. This is not necessarily negative.

Let's look at colonization from a neutral perspective rather than just with a negative assumption. Let's go back in history and find out why we see it so negatively? Therefore, I have summarized the idea of colonization in five different views in human history.

Colonization already existed in ancient times. The Persian Empire was probably the first to colonize in some form. Before the Persians, empires conquered other peoples, killed the people, enslaved them, and often destroyed their lands. But the Persians followed a different strategy. Instead of capturing them and taking care of them in their own land, they let them build their country under the control. Instead of killing them and destroying their land, they helped them rebuild it. Enjoy their goods and benefit from their taxes. This strategy allowed an Empire to grow faster and larger.

The Bible is a great historical book that describes this change very well. In 587 B.C. the Assyrians destroyed Jerusalem and took the Jews into exile. In 539 BC, the Persians conquered the Babylonian Empire. Then they allowed the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem.

The Persians changed their strategy. They appointed governors in the land they had conquered. They helped them build a good infrastructure or, as in the case of Jerusalem, rebuild the city. This allowed them to build a functioning nation, develop new resources and trade with the empire. It was a win-win situation.

They could do good business and were also willing to pay taxes to the empire. At least for some time before the empire levied too many taxes and controlled their entire life.

The Persian Empire became bigger and bigger. This strategy of decentralization made the empire unstable. Not everyone was so loyal to the empire. So, they had to control their territories more and more.

In time, almost every empire became a burden to the independent districts, and the subjects began to rebel and wanted to become independent.

In this instability, a new power came into play. In 336 BC, Alexander the Great conquered the entire known world in only a very short time. He was able to achieve this amazing expansion because he used this strategy consistently. His empire stretched from Greece to India. He conquered a nation and appointed a governor. Then he went to the next and so on. This strategy was very fast but also very uncertain. How could Alexander make sure that the right thing was still done in India when he was in Greece?

After his death, the empire broke into four parts under Alexander's officers. They were unable to hold the colonies together.

Alexandra was a brilliant, charismatic man. He was taught by Aristotle. One of the great Greek philosophers. The Greeks already had the idea of decentralization and democracy. They understood that centralization can never work. It's much better to involve the people and give them some power. To trust them, to equip them instead of killing them.

Aristotle was the humanist of that time. He understood what would be the best system in which society and humanity could develop. What must a system be like in which people are most active and productive?

Aristotle laid the foundation for the well-known Hellenism and the empire of Alexander the Great. Historians consider him one of the first humanists.

He was strongly against his mentor and teacher Plato. Plato did not believe that such a system would work. Therefore, he promoted centralization and control by an elite.

The Alexandrian Empire was fragile and falling apart. From the 6th century, after the foundation of Rome, the Romans began to expand. They brought everything under their control. They defeated the Greeks by their physical power. But the Greeks won the worldview. The idea of democracy and Hellenism influenced the Romans. Rome became the first republic and already had universal law. They appointed governors in their various conquered lands. They colonized them, and people had to pay taxes.

But the republic was fragile and in danger. The Bible gives us a good picture of the situation. The tax collectors took the taxes from the people, but a large part of it went directly into their own pockets.

Greek ideas were not working in Rome either. Rome was in danger of falling apart. The so-called Pax Romana, the Roman Republic, was in danger. In 27 BC, the Romans elected the first emperor.

According to the Bible, when Jesus was born, the emperor took the first census. He wanted to control his empire. He could only control it if he knew how many people lived in each district. So, he had the people return to their hometowns. Jesus' parents also had to return to Bethlehem, and there Jesus was born.

The Romans colonized the world. They had colonized as far as Spain, England and Persis.

But even the Romans could not hold their colonies and fell to the barbarians. Rome was defeated in 395. But not completely, because a new empire was founded under the Romans.

Part II Colonization 2.0 To bring all nations under a common law

The new empire came through Jesus Christ. He was the founder of the largest religion in the world today. When he left the world, he gave his disciples the commission to go into all the world, make disciples of them, baptize them, and teach them all that I have commanded you. Baptize them into the Kingdom of God.

They took this commandment seriously, and Christianity grew throughout the Roman Empire. The empire was afraid and persecuted them. But even though many died, the Romans could not stop this movement.

The Christians knew how to build a kingdom of righteousness. Not with weapons and power, as the power of the world does. It was done through love. Being a leader means serving and caring for people.

Jesus gave the disciples the mission to colonize the world. To bring people into the kingdom of God. The new empire with many independent nations.

Rome became more and more corrupt. The cost for the luxurious life was swallowed up by the sky. They needed more and more taxes but did not want to work. They had only merchants who were less and less loyal to the empire. But the Romans had no more money to use for infrastructure or to help the needy. The infrastructure collapsed and many Romans began to live in poverty.

In the Roman Empire, Christians were oppressed, but that didn't stop them from expanding their empire. They built an infrastructure to help people. People in need could find help from the church. The church built a court. When the Romans needed a court, they turned to the Church and not to the corrupt Romans.

They were willing to help and take care of the sick. The Christians are building a social system in a corrupt empire. They were superior to the visible empire of the Romans. And so, it was clear which empire would survive. And it did.

The Romans realized that the Christian worldview could help. More and more the Romans saw that this empire was stronger than their own. Emperor Constantine made Christianity the legal religion in Rome in 312 AD, and Theophilus made it the state religion in 395 AD. When Rome began to fall in the 5th century, a new empire held people together.

Now Christians went to all nations and brought the teachings of the Bible to the people. They built monasteries all over the common world of that time. The monasteries became the center of development in Europe. Everything was taught in the monasteries. They had schools, agriculture and technology. It was the center of civilization.

The monasteries grew and became cities. The Christians became the new colonial power of the world. But the Christians colonized it in the sense of the Bible - they taught people to obey God's commandment and helped them to develop and build a civilization. They made them independent under the emperor Jesus Christ.

They developed technologies to make work easier. They brought medicine to heal the sick. They built houses for protection.

But even this system was not safe. That is why Charlemagne wanted to unite the Christians and build an empire. He again became an emperor, and the pope crowned him in 800 AD. He wanted to centralize the idea of Christianity. It was not perfect, and in many ways, he felt. But he established Western civilization in an amazing way. Education, universities, infrastructures grew in the whole of Europe. Out of this came the Holy Empire of Rome, which lasted until 1806. It was a collection of different kingdoms under the Catholic Church.

They made many mistakes, as we know from history. Many things were done in the name of Christ, but it was done for their own benefit. But the kingdom survived. The good prevailed.

In time, the powerful started to oppress their people. The infrastructure became more and more expensive. People had to pay a lot of taxes. The pope tried to control everything.

The system became eviler and eviler. Instead of helping, serving and liberating the people, the oppressed them and took away their goods. In the end, they had to pay for their salvation. The church felt. This was no longer what Christianity teaches.

In 1517, Martin Luther broke with the church. A new movement, the Reformation, began. With it also began a new idea of colonization.

Part III: Colonization 3.0 Reaching the whole world – and bringing all people under a common law

The Holy Roman Empire held many kingdoms together. There were clear commandments and laws. The Catholic Church invented the Justinian Civil Code in the Middle Ages. It was based on the Romans law system and the revelation of God. The only problem was that not

everyone had access to them. Most people could not read or write and could not understand God's word. They always had to seek out the one who could understand them. The clergy was the one who interpreted God's word, and the people had to follow them. The people did not want to have issues with God, so it was wise to do what the priests said.

But what was right? It was the interpretation of a few. That is why the system became corrupt. Those who could read and write interpreted the laws in the way that suited them best. In time, this feudal system of the Middle Ages became evil to ordinary people. Because of man's sinfulness, this system could not survive forever.

With the translation of the Bible into the common language and the idea of teaching everyone to read and write, the system changed. Now everyone could understand God. The Bible became the academic foundation of the West. The translation created a debate about the correct interpretation. Not everyone saw it the same way. But it allowed a debate about the right interpretation. This system of allowing everyone access to the truth kept corruption in balance. Anyone who had the Bible in hand could judge others.

It was the beginning of human rights and a rule of law. There was a foundation that was above all people. No one could change it. Not the powerful and not the majority.

This brought freedom to the West as long as people believed in this absolute foundation.

During that time, people's worldviews changed. New worlds were discovered. In 1492, Columbus sailed to America. And Magellan reached China. New worlds were discovered, and Christians took this as a mandate to take the gospel to the whole world.

Not everything happened in a good way. This is especially true of the evangelization of South America. The Catholics killed all the people who did not want to convert to Christianity. The Catholic Church didn't reform and stayed in the old system. It was actually pre-reformation colonization.

In other parts, much evil was done, but the good was even greater. The Christians saw it as their calling to civilize these newly discovered worlds. To bring them under the kingdom of God. Christians believe in their mission to civilize the world. The Creator told them how to do it. If they do it this way, the world will function in the Creator's way. It works better than any other idea. It brings freedom, prosperity and happiness.

So, they went to these new worlds to convince people that God's idea is the best. If they followed His instructions, their nation would become prosperous. They first built a mission station, like the first monasteries. They built a school and a hospital next to it. They started agriculture and trade. Civilization grew in these parts of the world as it grew in the West almost 1000 years before.

America was discovered. Christians saw it as a new Jerusalem. Not many people lived there, and they often didn't want to convert them, which would have been their job. Even today, there are conflicts between the natives and the Europeans. Frequently, the colonialists started to oppress the people instead of liberating them.

England got colonies all over the world. It became an empire where the sun never set.

The great force behind this colonization was the mission of Christians to make disciples of all people. Christians believed that the world belonged to God. They knew that knowing the Creator and King of the world would enable them to build a good and stable society. They saw it as their task to carry this civilization to the whole world. They built hospitals and houses. Furthermore, they helped them with technology and infrastructure.

But over time, the Bible was lost, and people's greed became stronger than the idea of Christianity. The colonialists began to abuse and oppress the people. Helpers became slaves. They were deported to Europe and abused. When people lost sight of God, they forgot that all people are made in His image. Black people were considered inferior.

The French Revolution of 1789 brought a new worldview. France had never experienced the Reformation and was still in the old system of the Pope and kings. The king oppressed the people, and the people often lived in great fear and terror.

Now they wanted to become free. But not like the reformer. They did not believe that they needed God. They did not understand that there was a general law about people. Furthermore, they thought that man is good by himself. What makes a person bad are the authorities? When all people are free, we will have freedom. This view will change the whole world.

Now everyone should be free to do whatever they want. It ended in chaos and Napoleon Bonaparte came and colonized all of Europe. The idea of revolution could not deliver what it promised. It ended with the opposite. The idea that everyone can do what he wants to do does not work.

Through the teachings of Nietzsche, Darwin and Marx in the 19's, the man was freed from all moral norms. But instead of man becoming free and good, he became a beast. The ideology of anarchy from the French Revolution turned the world upside down. It opened the door for a new kind of colonization. It allowed the powerful to do what they wanted to do.

Colonization will now become an evil thing. But it wasn't because of the Christian idea of colonization. It was because people had lost the moral understanding of God. Colonization now becomes a curse for people.

People wanted to abolish all colonies. Not only did people see the practical colonies as evil, but they also believed that it was evil to teach one's worldview to others. The Christian idea was over. But instead of abolishing the colonies, it even became more intense.

Part IV: Colonization 4:0. New ideologies wanted to colonize the world

In the 19th century, a new wave of colonization began in Europe. It was a race to bring the resources, the geographically important access points, and the political influence territories under the control of Europeans.

The whole world was now colonized. Especially Africa and Asia. The Christian idea had disappeared. A struggle arose between the socialists, who wanted to abolish colonization and the capitalists. This conflict will define the next century. The abolition of the slave trade took place in the 19th century, but the quest for more influence and power continued. The West took many resources and controlled powers in their colonies. Philosophers began to blame this imperialism, but it was impossible to stop this movement.

It lasted until the First World War. Europe wanted war, which is unimaginable today. They believed that the world would take humanity to the next level. That all the evil in the world would disappear. Darwin's worldview was applied to the world. The weaker ones were to die out so that the world could survive.

After the war, Europe was destroyed. The Americans entered the war in 1917 with their alliance. But Americans still held to a biblical worldview from the past. While Europe adopted the atheistic view of phosphorus, America held to the Bible. They believed in independent nations. President Wilson now promoted free nations. He established the League of Nations in 1919. The League of Nations should be an organization that holds independent nations together. The organization was to make sure that a war like World War I would never happen again. The Europeans had to give up their colonies. Germany and the Ottoman Empire, their occupied territories. New nations emerged, especially in the Middle East and the Balkans. The occupied lands were returned.

Europe now had independent nations. But the Europeans held on to their colonies in other parts of the world. In the Middle East, nations became what were called banana republics. They were independent nations but were under the control of Britain or France.

Life went entirely under control and colonization. The League of Nations collapsed, and countries began to colonize new territories. Especially Japan and the Soviets.

President Roosevelt promised Prime Minister Churchill to help in World War II if they were willing to give up their colonies as well. He still believed in independent nations. They founded the United Nations in 1945. An organization to watch over all independent nations and make sure that none could overpower the others. He was a committed Christian and believed that people should not oppress others. In a united nation based on human rights, everyone should be free.

But Roosevelt died before the war ended, and the next president will face a different reality. Russia was colonizing the nations. Under the name of communism, they wanted to bring the whole world under their creed. The new war began. The Cold War. The communists are against the democratic free world. They blamed the colonization of the West but did the same.

Communism was a new colonizing power. Like the Christians, they believed in bringing all people and nations under the ideology. They had the same vision as the Christians, but not the same faith. They were against the values of Christianity that prevailed in the West. Furthermore, they were against individual freedom. By them, everyone should have the same thing. No one should be more creative or different. Their ideology allowed them to kill anyone who did not accept their ideology.

Christianity brought freedom of speech, freedom of consciousness, and freedom to do your own thing. But communism brought a brutal system of control, war, and the abolition of creativity. People had to be all equal and lost their property.

In 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed. Most countries became independent. But the problem was often that independence led to war and a new dictatorship. The situation was regularly no better. The West withdrew because of its bad consciousness. It was like a father letting his family life back because he made some mistakes. We see that in Afghanistan. But it happened in many situations.

But in the 20th century, a new enemy appeared. The world felt like it was going back to the dark ages. It was the idea of bringing the whole world under the rule of Islam.

In the 7th century, Muslims tried to colonize the entire world. They moved from Istanbul across North Africa to France. The Islamic world was stopped and fell silent during this time. But now it has been reawakened. Historians say that the fall of the Christian idea gave birth to this radical Islam. They followed the strategy of the French Revolution and Communism. Just as the revolutions were a reaction to the abuse of the powerful, radicalism was a reaction to the colonization of the West, especially in the Middle East. I think it is fair to say that the West is also responsible for the rise of radical Islam. Until the West recognizes these mistakes, I doubt that a solution can be found.

Independent nations under the United Nations based on human rights were a great vision. Roosevelt thought like the Christians. He wanted to go all over the world and teach people human rights based on the Bible. The world needs something to hold it together. That should lead to independence and freedom, not oppression.

But because people rejected God and the Bible, the mission felt. Communism and radical Islam brought just the opposite.

The nations are now independent. Are they?

The Christian idea perished because people did not adhere to the Creator. Communism went down because it brought the opposite of what it claimed. Islam will also fall because it always brought brutality and war. But the idea of colonization will continue. What would be the new colonization in the 21st century?

Part V Colonization 5.0 The new way of colonizing - globalization

A new way of looking at the world is emerging. It is called globalization. International corporations and banks dominate the world. They do this not through political means or military might, but through economics. The world is no longer dominated by states, but by private companies.

Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Google and all the tech giants rule the world. The pharmaceutical companies, the oil companies. They drive prices up or down.

China is another player in this field. China buys everything in the world. It buys the resources from Africa and sells them the end product. They are building a port for Africa or Asia with Chinese people. The Africans and Asians clap their hands. But they become dependent on them. They can't run it without their help. They can't pay back the debt to them. In the end, they sell the port to them. The Chinese steal the resources and their nations. It seems that they want to help build their civilization, but they have colonized it through private companies.

Colonization has reached a new level. Instead of helping them to develop, they have been abused. Instead of teaching them how to do it right, they are made so independent that they always need their help. The West feels good about giving money for development, but it often ends in corruption. The West still intends to help, even if it doesn't know how. But China doesn't want to do that from the beginning. It wants to become the new superpower in the world.

The West is helpless and looks to China. Instead of understanding what is going on, they want to become like China. They want a big centralization like China. They increase their military household and adapt their worldview. To be better and faster. The survival of the fittest.

Conclusion

Shouldn't we rethink? Think about what really makes us great. People often don't understand history. But people who don't understand history are cursed to make the same mistake again. Let us be wise and reflect on what has brought us freedom and prosperity.

Today's understanding of colonization is that some people control others. But the Christian understanding of colonization was to bring people under the Kingdom of God. Christians went all over the world and taught all people. They wanted to bring them under the kingdom of God. But in this kingdom, people are free and independent. They become junior partners of the Creator. This colonization would help people develop and become free.

The Bible and Christianity brought forth an entity in which independent nations and people could live together. There was a law that was not man-made. It was outside of man. It came from God. No one could change it or abuse it. This system created the West with all the freedom and prosperity it has today.

The West is actually a product of the colonization of Christianity, of Jesus' mission to go into all the world and teach them all that I have told you.

The colonization will not stop. There will always be a movement that tries to take its idea to other countries. But everyone has felt. The only successful time was the colonization by the Christians.

Of course, not everything the Christians did, was good. They often did it in the name of Christianity, but in reality, they were building their own empire.

But - isn't it time to rethink?

Thank you for taking the time to read it.

Markus Reichenbach