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## The third world created Europe

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### Abstract

The concept of Third World introduces some nations such as, Asia, Africa and Latin America. The third world was known as underdeveloped countries. This essay debates on two different views. The First view consists of people who believe that the Third World created Europe, like 'Europe is literally the creation of the Third World'. On the other hand, some scholars disagree with the first view and believe that Europe created Third World, like the Third World was shaped by the global extension of capitalism from Europe during 15th to 19th century. Therefore, Europe has stuffed itself with the gold and raw materials from the third world countries such as China, Latin America and Asia by colonizing these countries. This led to the colonization of these countries by European nation to gain benefits from the resources and raw materials that are available in abundance in Asia and Africa. This essay will examine the two different views of the debate, and will argue that the third world was created by Europe. Therefore, Europe had a significant influence on undeveloped countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

**Keywords:** third world, Europe, underdeveloped countries

### Introduction

According to a definition provided by Lyon (1969) <sup>[6]</sup>, the Third World refers to a strong myth and a realistic anachronism. The concept of Third World introduces some nations such as, Asia, Africa and Latin America (Norwine and Gonzalez, 1988: p15) <sup>[10]</sup>. According to Ma (1998) <sup>[7]</sup>, in 1950's the out brake of third world concept encouraged many political scientists, economists, sociologists, and scholars from various other disciplines to study the past, present and future of this new emerging world, which was unknown to the west before 15th century. In French the phrase Third World was first interpreted during the mid-1950s (Lyon, 1969) <sup>[6]</sup>. The French demographer Alfred Sauvy in 1952 termed 'third estates' as 'Third World' considering the poor economic conditions, powerless government and low social status of these estates. By 1960's it was very popular among scholars to describe 'underdeveloped' or 'developing' countries as 'Third World'. Currently the following parts of globe are termed, as 'The Third World' like the Latin American countries, entire African continent except South Africa, and the whole of Asia except Japan and Israel (Ma, 1998) <sup>[7]</sup>. On the other hand Europe is known to be very diverse geographically, politically and culturally, so the definition of Europe varies depending upon its geographical landscape, political structure, or cultural heritage. But in simple terms Europe can be defined as a region spreading across many countries that speak different languages, follow different cultures, religions, institutions and customs (Wittner, 2009) <sup>[15]</sup>.

This essay debates on two different views. The First view consists of people who believe that the Third World created Europe, like Frantz Fanon who supports this view and believes that 'Europe is literally the creation of the Third World' (Waites, 1999 p xiv; Eid, 2000) <sup>[13, 2]</sup>. On the other hand, some scholars disagree with the first view and believe that Europe created Third World. As mentioned in Ma (1998) <sup>[7]</sup> that the Third World was shaped by the global extension of capitalism from Europe during 15th to 19th century, which contained parts Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America, Russia, Asia and the Middle East except Japan. Norwine and Gonzalez (1988) <sup>[10]</sup> also agreed with this view and stated that the term of Third World is actually European. Further this essay will examine the two different views of the debate, and will argue that the third world was created by Europe. Therefore, Europe had a significant influence on undeveloped countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

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### The Third World created Europe

Frantz Fanon is an expert who studied majorly on Third World countries and specifically on those areas of the Third world, which were undergoing some revolutionary action (Forsythe, 1973) <sup>[5]</sup>.

He once pointed out that Europe had satisfied herself with the golden raw materials of the colonial states such as, China, Latin America and Africa (West and Brown, 1993) <sup>[14]</sup>. This indicated that the resources and raw materials that were shipped from these colonies were utilized for laying the foundation of European Empires. As Fanon's centre of focus was on the Third World he stated that 'the wealth of the imperial countries is our wealth too', which justified that the wealth accumulated by the European countries were in actual the wealth of this Third World countries (West and Brown, 1993) <sup>[14]</sup>.

In true sense the Europe has always been flooded by the raw materials and gold from its colonies in Latin America, China, and Africa. Today Europe is abundant with all the wealth occupied from these colonies. For centuries the diamonds, oil, silk, cotton, timber, and exotic produces from these colonies have been shipped on the shores of Europe. This justifies the argument that Europe is literally the creation of the so-called Third World (Fanon, 1963: p58) <sup>[4]</sup>. Fanon viewed Third World as "the Third World starting a" instead of "the new history of man". A new history found, pointed out that along with disappearance of colonialism the colonized man also got disappeared. This started happening because in search of livelihood and work the colonized man started migrating to European countries and helping European countries in developing their Empires. This also favoured the capitalist regions to be inhabited by a "new man". This rightly explained that just overcoming colonialism was not the end of history (Pithouse, 2003) <sup>[11]</sup>.

### A contradictory view

The Third World is known as a complex creation of history or the policy of global extension by European capitalism, and the process of creating it dates back to early 15th century. The Spanish and Portuguese started connecting Latin America to the Third World by the end of 15th century (Ma, 1998) <sup>[7]</sup>. Lyon (1969) <sup>[6]</sup> further mentioned that the Third World became the victim and successor of the European powers, which comprised of African and Asian countries (Waites, 1999: p313-314) <sup>[13]</sup>. According to Lyon (1969) <sup>[6]</sup>, over a period of three hundred years, different parts of Africa were imposed by European colonial rule and made the Third world insignificant to international business (Waites, 1999: p20) <sup>[13]</sup>. Stavrianos thus defined Third World as 'those countries or regions that participated on unequal terms in what eventually became the global market economy' (Ma, 1998) <sup>[7]</sup>. It seems that the invasion by European countries thus helped in transforming the economy of Third World countries by making them as one of the prime markets for trade. What is more, Stavrianos described the Third World as

'those countries or regions that participated on unequal terms in what eventually became the global market economy' (Ma, 1998) <sup>[7]</sup>. Before finishing the colonial empires, European capitalists created the Third World into workers and product markets. Therefore, the history of African and Asian countries is apparently well known as Third World, which was created due to European expansion (Waites, 1999: p313-314) <sup>[13]</sup>.

There was no good relationship between the European powers and the third world countries in the past due to colonialism in Asia and Africa (Lyon, 1969) <sup>[6]</sup>. But the Third World countries took lessons from the European colonizers. Likewise, Marx discussed about the role of European countries such as Germany, France and England on their battle against the resident capitalist system, which according to Fanon played the role of chauvinism for some countries, like Algeria, Guinea and Congo in their battle against a capitalist system. From 1945 to 196, France started ignoring several of its colonies in Africa and Asia, while Britain due to Rhodesia was still in shock and concerned it with the legacies of some colonial responsibilities 'such as Gi-bralter, Anguilla, Fiji and Hong Kong' (Lyon, 1969) <sup>[6]</sup>. It is clear that this turned out to the benefit of the third world countries for they took lessons from the European colonizers, and by revolting against their capitalistic policies, they freed their countries. This also led to an emergence of Algerian revolution in Africa, which made Algerian people aware of their struggle against French colonialism. And since 1954 they stuck to their slogan of national liberation of Algeria. The revolutionary violence too worked as a psychological therapy for the oppressed and led the demolition of colonialism and neo-colonialism from the national territories of these Third World countries and helped them in removing capitalism, colonialism and imperialism from undeveloped countries (Masilela 2009) <sup>[8]</sup>. The term Third World was not itself an original for undeveloped countries but a European notion (Ma, 1998) <sup>[7]</sup>. In the west in terms of technology, science and productivity, the processes of empire made progress slowly, which led to change in trade through Asia and Europe.

European countries were far ahead of Empire in terms of science, technology and productivity. This is evident that this proved to be helpful to Empire by advancing its technology to enhance the trade between the Europe and the Third World and bring their technology to these countries. But at the same time the change of route between Asia and Europe i.e. the one that passed through the Middle East to the one, which went across the Cape, adversely affected the economies of Ottoman Empire (Ma, 1998) <sup>[7]</sup>. As can be seen, this resulted in the decline of trade. This led western countries in North Africa to occupy the Ottoman Empire's land in the 19th century and to establish colonies over there (Ma, 1998) <sup>[7]</sup>. However, Russia and Eastern Europe were separated from the Third world due to the emergence of the socialist countries and its separation from the capitalist world economy (Ma, 1998) <sup>[7]</sup>.

Fanon also mentioned the creation of a world system of Third World nations based on "dual emergence" of national sovereignty and international solidarity. The dual emergence was based on the political and ethical principles of independence and security rather than on a "metaphysical principle" of cultural authenticity or geopolitical exceptionalism (Fanon, 1963: p xxvi) <sup>[4]</sup>. New man was created by decolonization through the very process of liberation. (Fanon, 1963: p14) <sup>[4]</sup>. According to Fanon creating a new man was the final aim but the world of this new man cannot be constructed in pure opposition to the European ideal. Therefore, the third world defined itself by Europe (Erin, 2011) <sup>[3]</sup>. In the third world with the emergence of new countries and with the growth of nationalism, a new-faced humanism and socialism were highly evident in countries like Algeria and Cuba (Macey,

2000) [9].

Fanon also described the third world as a “political institutions” that comes under the dominance of colonizer (Alvaro Reyes, 2012) [11]. But the future of the third world and Europe are two open possibilities that in some manner interact with each other (Lyon, 1969) [6]. Also the unity of the undeveloped countries needs to be attained, which is an action in development after getting independence by ending colonization (Sartre, 1963) [12]. Decolonization is also called as the creation of new man (Sartre, 1963) [12]. The cultural textures of many African national contexts were taken over by the metropolitan (colonial- imperial) cultural systems. The motive behind doing this was to dissolve the dominating cultural patterns of European powers in the Third World countries (Masilela 2009) [8].

For, Europe, for humanity and for friends we have to make a new start and progress a new thinking and make effort for creating a new man (Fanon, 1963: p239) [4]. According to Fanon socialism is the best appropriate thing for young nations. In addition, capitalism is the enemy of the third world nations since it could hinder the development and exploit their opportunities. Fanon claims that undeveloped countries must not be content with the values preceding it instead they must construct their governments based on the values that define them (Erin, 2011).

Relationship between economic development and expansion development within Europe and underdeveloped countries cannot be summarised as known quantities (Waites, 1999: p1) [13]. Europe has stuffed itself with the gold and raw materials from the third world countries such as China, Latin America and Asia by colonizing these countries. (Waites, 1999: pxiv) [13]. There was a developing gap between Europe and Asia in terms of urban people and capitalist social system, which provided private economic movement. Furthermore, the third world was known as underdeveloped countries. Many of those countries tried to grow their output per capita. (Waites, 1999: p7) [13]. According to wallerstein by the early 20th century, the third world got combined into the capitalist world system. He also argued that geographically, the social division of labour was extended into the course of capitalisms development, which became increasingly hierarchical (Waites, 1999: p15-16) [13].

Many historians have argued that, the development of Europe was not connected to the Third World countries functionality (Waites, 1999: p311) [13]. But according to Waites (1999: p20) [13], there was a vast expansion of development gaps between Europe and undeveloped countries between 1830 and 1930 due to colonization, which led majority of regions in Africa and Asia to come under European rule. But this gap was widened due to the excessive suppression of these regions by European powers by accumulating wealth and other raw materials and making use of it for personal development. It is argued that this led to the colonization of these countries by European nation to gain benefits from the resources and raw materials that are available in abundance in Asia and Africa and consequently ending up forming a Third World.

### Conclusion

This paper discussed two viewpoints where the first is that of the Third World creating Europe and the second is of Europe creating the Third World. Frantz Fanon supports the first viewpoint. On the other hand, many historians believe

that the development and expansion of European countries is not connected to the Third World nations and disagree with this statement and infect believe that Europe created Third World. From the study it is very evident that the third world is a creation of Europe mainly due to colonization. Therefore, Europe has a considerable effect on undeveloped countries through colonization and capitalism, which continued to accumulate raw materials from the Third worlds like Asia, Africa and Latin America.

As can be seen that European countries colonized some countries of Asia and Africa through the colonization. The creation of the Third World countries resulted by taking hand over the gold and raw materials for example, diamonds, cotton, oil, timber and silk from several colonial countries such as Africa, China and America Latin. Therefore, because the Third World countries were rich in some resources, which led to the colonization of these countries by Europe and mainly, to access the resources. It is also recommended by Lyon (1969) [6] that the future of the Third World and Europe are deeply complex that in some methods, certainly interact and each adds to the creation of the other.

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