

**Committee: Special, Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)**

**Issue: Addressing the issue of Green Colonialism**

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**Position: Deputy President**

## **PERSONAL INTRODUCTION**

Dear delegates,

My name is Artemis Polychronopoulou Komini and I am one of the deputy presidents of the Special, Political and Decolonization Committee, otherwise named the GA4 committee. It is an honor to be able to serve as a deputy president at the 9th ATSMUN conference, and through the following study guide, I wish to inspire you to find the same determination and passion that other deputy presidents and I have for a conference such as this.

I would first and foremost like to welcome you all to the Special, Political and Decolonization Committee. Our goal here is to find efficient, effective solutions to issues ranging from public safety and information to special political missions such as long-drawn international conflicts. Here, I need to emphasize that this study guide should not be the only point from which you derive knowledge but should serve as a mere starting point and reference guide to your research. While all information you can acquire is useful, it is vital to your experience as a delegate to form your own ideas, because it is of utmost importance that you understand the topic thoroughly enough for your views to be truly yours, so there is as little misunderstanding among us as possible.

Any and all questions are welcome to my email [artwilliamspro@gmail.com](mailto:artwilliamspro@gmail.com), so please do not hesitate to ask whatever may be troubling you and holding you back from reaching your full potential regarding this conference.

## INTRODUCTION

Green colonialism, as it is commonly referred to, signifies a subtle yet concerning trend in the world of international politics. It involves the imposition of environmental agendas, policies, and practices by powerful countries or organizations upon less privileged communities or countries, often in the name of conservation or sustainable development. In this process, the voices and needs of local populations can be overlooked, leading to tragic consequences and exacerbating existing socio-economic disparities.

Historically, the act of green colonialism has taken place in developing countries in times of colonialist rule by more developed nations. It is important to note that the state of underdevelopment in countries that have, in the past or present, fallen victim to green colonialism by outside forces, can be attributed to their colonization and invasion by those forces.

In more recent times, environmental awareness has become a popular issue with various organizations and governments, as well as with individuals wishing to create ways of protecting and sustaining the environment through personal lifestyle modifications and social mindset changes. This has led to overall raised awareness regarding the environmental crises and several shifts in government rulings and regulations all around the world. It has, however, also led to the issue of the destruction of vulnerable populations by more powerful organizations, under the pretext of the production of sustainable energy and resources. It would be redundant to note the ethical and moral concerns and violations of such actions toward human rights, as well as cultural and societal disruptions. For such reasons, finding solutions to eliminate the practice of green colonialism is a very important matter, so quality of life can be assured for all, especially the most vulnerable of populations, such as the native and indigenous populations who are often the victims of this issue.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Green Colonialism

The practice of a country making decisions for another country, overstepping cultural or ethical boundaries of native people, under the pretext of environmental benefit and progress.

### Colonialism

The policy or practice of a country acquiring full or partial political, economic and social control over another country, most usually through the means of military force.<sup>1</sup>

### Neo-colonialism

Neocolonialism can be described as the subtle propagation of socio-economic and political control by former colonial rulers aimed at former colonies.<sup>2</sup>

### More Economically Developed Country (MEDC)

While not fully legally defined, an MEDC is one that is considered economically developed, industrialized and politically democratic.

### Less Economically Developed Country (LEDC)

While also not fully legally defined, an LEDC can be characterized by a nation with underdeveloped economic status, a weak industry and that may be experiencing political turmoil.

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<sup>1</sup>“Chapter 1.” *Teaching and Learning*, teaching.usask.ca/curriculum/indigenous\_voices/power-and-privilege/chapter-1.php#:~:text=Colonialism%3A%20is%20the%20policy%20or,settlers%2C%20and%20exploiting%20it%20economically.

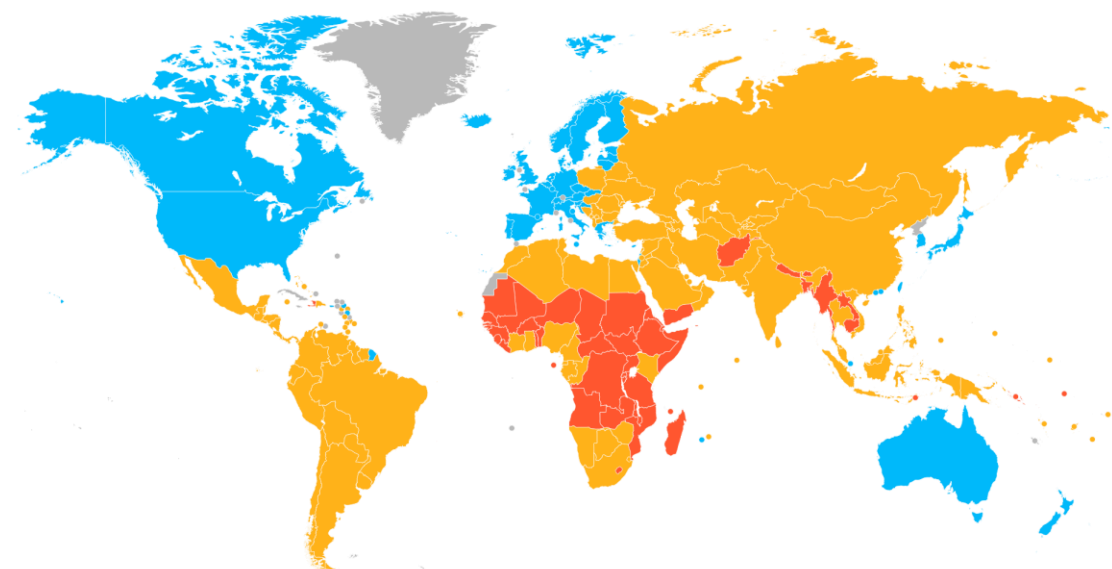
<sup>2</sup> “Neocolonialism.” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, iep.utm.edu/neocolon/

### Net-zero emissions

Net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are defined as the balance between anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions created and anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the atmosphere over a specified period. Net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are also referred to as carbon neutrality.<sup>3</sup>

### Internally Displaced People

According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, IDPs are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence."<sup>4</sup>



**Figure 1.<sup>5</sup> Map of classifications of developed nations sorted by the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund**

**Blue: Developed countries (MEDCs)**

**Orange: Developing countries**

**Red: Least developed countries (LEDs)**

<sup>3</sup> "Global Warming of 1.5 oC | Glossary." *Global Warming of 1.5 oC*, [www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/glossary/](http://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/glossary/)

<sup>4</sup> "About Internally Displaced Persons." *OHCHR*, [www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-internally-displaced-persons/about-internally-displaced-persons#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Guiding%20Principles,avoid%20the%20effects%20of%20armed.](http://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-internally-displaced-persons/about-internally-displaced-persons#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Guiding%20Principles,avoid%20the%20effects%20of%20armed.)

<sup>5</sup> "Developed Country." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 1 Aug. 2023, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed\\_country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_country).

Gray: No data<sup>6</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the colonial era, nations embarked on ambitious expeditions to exploit the vast resources of colonized territories. These endeavours, driven by economic interests, often resulted in environmental degradation and the displacement of Indigenous Communities. The plundering of natural resources laid the foundation for future manifestations of green colonialism.

One prominent example of green colonialism is the establishment of protected areas and national parks in colonized territories. While the intention may have been to conserve biodiversity and protect ecosystems, the creation of these protected areas often resulted in the forced displacement of indigenous and local communities who had been sustainably managing these lands for generations. Their traditional practices and knowledge of the environment were disregarded, leading to the loss of cultural heritage and livelihoods. Additionally, green colonialism has been evident in large-scale development projects, such as hydroelectric dams and industrial agriculture, which have been implemented without adequate consideration for their environmental impact or the rights of affected communities. In some cases, these projects have caused irreversible damage to ecosystems, rivers, and wildlife, while benefiting the colonizing countries or corporations economically.

It is essential to note here the history of some major colonial powers, using as prominent examples two significant European nations, France and Norway. France's colonial past is deeply intertwined with the exploitation and subjugation of indigenous peoples in various regions across the world. From the 16th to the 20th century, France established and expanded colonial territories in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and the Pacific, leaving lasting impacts on the indigenous populations of these regions.

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<sup>6</sup> *List of Least Developed Countries (as of 24 November 2021)*, [www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/ldc\\_list.pdf](http://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/ldc_list.pdf).

During its colonial era, France pursued resource extraction and exploitation in its colonies, often disregarding the environmental impact on local ecosystems and communities. This approach sometimes perpetuated green colonialism, leading to ecological degradation and social injustice in the colonized regions. In recent years, France has made efforts to address environmental issues both domestically and on the international stage. It has been a vocal proponent of international climate agreements and has pledged to support climate-resilient initiatives in developing countries.

Norway's involvement in the issue of green colonialism has garnered attention due to its significant role in environmental conservation and sustainable development initiatives. A notable case of green colonialism in Norway is one of the Sámi people. For centuries, the Sámi people have inhabited the northern regions of Norway, maintaining a distinct culture, language, and way of life closely tied to reindeer herding, fishing, and traditional livelihoods. However, historical policies and practices pursued by Norwegian authorities, including forced assimilation, land dispossession, and restrictions on the Sámi language and cultural expression, have contributed to the marginalization and erasure of Sámi identity.

The legacy of green colonialism extends beyond historical colonization. In the modern context, global power imbalances still influence environmental policies and decision-making. Developed nations often dictate international environmental agendas and promote market-based solutions, which may not align with the needs and priorities of developing countries. This can perpetuate a neo-colonial dynamic, where powerful actors assert control over environmental resources and influence policy-making to suit their interests.

Addressing green colonialism requires recognizing historical injustices, empowering local communities, and promoting equitable and inclusive approaches to environmental conservation and sustainable development. It also involves acknowledging the contributions of indigenous and traditional knowledge systems in preserving the environment and embracing a collaborative, global effort to tackle

pressing environmental challenges without perpetuating historical patterns of exploitation and dominance.

### **European Green Deal**

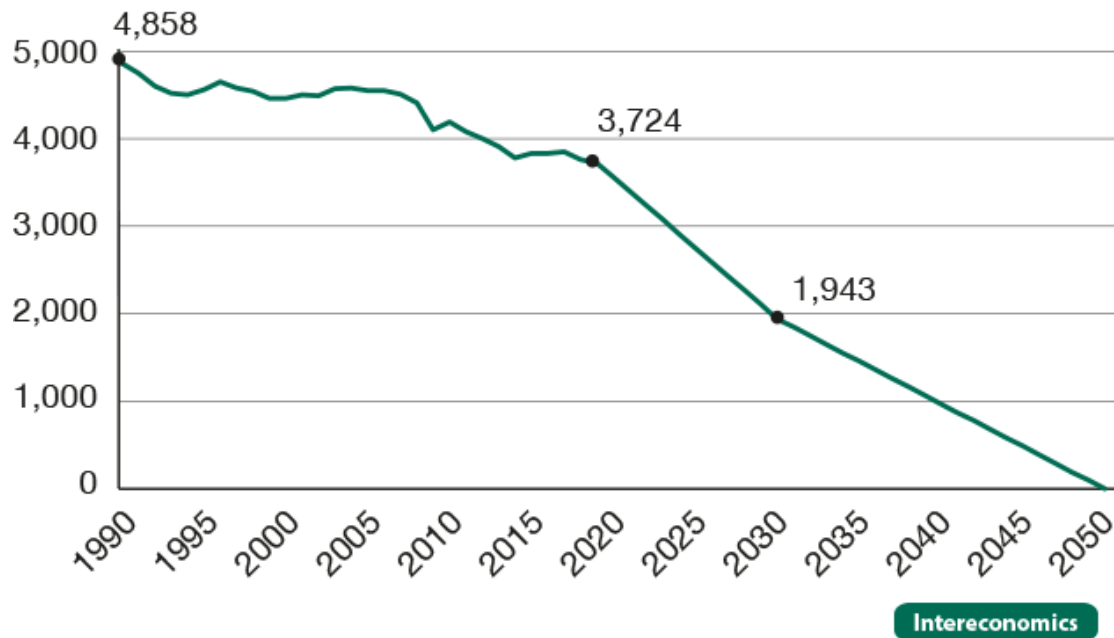
The European Green Deal is an ambitious and comprehensive policy framework proposed by the European Commission to address climate change, promote sustainable economic growth, and transition the European Union (EU) to a climate-neutral and environmentally friendly economy by 2050. Introduced in 2019, the Green Deal aims to transform Europe into a global leader in environmental protection and sustainable development. It encompasses various initiatives and measures, including increasing the share of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, promoting circular economy practices, and protecting biodiversity.

However, there are concerns about potential green colonialism implications in the implementation of the European Green Deal. As the EU moves forward with its climate goals, there is a risk of unintentionally imposing its environmental policies and standards on other countries and regions, especially those in the Global South. This could result in a form of green neocolonialism, where developed countries dictate environmental agendas and measures without considering the specific contexts, needs, and capacities of the affected nations.

To avoid perpetuating green colonialism, the EU is responsible for any potential negative consequences of its policies on vulnerable communities and indigenous populations. Climate actions should not lead to the displacement or marginalization of local communities who have traditionally lived sustainably with their environments. Instead, the Green Deal should promote partnerships and knowledge-sharing to empower these communities and integrate their perspectives into decision-making processes.

In conclusion, the European Green Deal represents a significant step towards addressing climate change and fostering sustainability within the EU. However, to avoid perpetuating green colonialism, it is essential that the EU adopts a collaborative,

inclusive, and equitable approach to implementing its climate policies, both within Europe and in its interactions with the rest of the world.



**Figure 2. An estimated statistical decline in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050<sup>7</sup>**

### Green New Deal

The Green New Deal (GND) is a proposed legislative package in the United States aimed at addressing climate change, economic inequality, and environmental degradation. It was introduced by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts in February 2019.

The primary objectives of the Green New Deal are to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and 100% clean and renewable energy within a specified timeframe. It emphasizes the need for significant investments in infrastructure,

<sup>7</sup> Jaeger, Carlo, et al. "The European Green Deal – More than Climate Neutrality." *Intereconomics*, 1 Jan. 2021, [www.intereconomics.eu/contents/year/2021/number/2/article/the-european-green-deal-more-than-climate-neutrality.html](https://www.intereconomics.eu/contents/year/2021/number/2/article/the-european-green-deal-more-than-climate-neutrality.html).



energy efficiency, and clean technology to transition to a low-carbon economy and create millions of green jobs.

In terms of its potential influence on the issue of green colonialism, the Green New Deal's emphasis on environmental justice is particularly relevant. The proposal prioritizes historically disadvantaged communities that have disproportionately borne the brunt of environmental pollution and climate change impacts. By acknowledging the historic injustices inflicted upon these communities, the GND seeks to rectify past harms and promote equitable access to the benefits of a sustainable and clean energy economy.

Moreover, the Green New Deal highlights the importance of including marginalized and indigenous communities in the decision-making processes of environmental policy. By recognizing the rights and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, the proposal aims to foster a more inclusive approach to environmental governance. This inclusivity can be instrumental in mitigating the effects of green colonialism, as it seeks to give a stronger voice to those most affected by environmental policies and projects.

However, it is essential to note that the Green New Deal's success in addressing the issue of green colonialism depends on its effective implementation and engagement with affected communities. While the proposal holds significant promise in promoting environmental and social justice, ensuring meaningful consultation and free, prior, and informed consent from indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups will be crucial in avoiding the perpetuation of historical patterns of exploitation and marginalization.

### **Green Aid Plan**

Japan's Green Aid Plan, also known as the Green Aid Plan for Realization of a Low Carbon Society, is a comprehensive initiative aimed at promoting sustainable

development and addressing climate change challenges in developing countries. The plan was launched by the Japanese government as part of its commitment to international cooperation and environmental stewardship. Japan's expertise in clean energy technologies, such as solar, wind, and geothermal power, is shared with partner countries to help diversify their energy sources and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. It encompasses a wide range of initiatives and projects that focus on renewable energy and sustainable development.

Critics of Japan's Green Aid Plan point to issues regarding the alignment of Japan's overseas investments with the principles of the Green Aid Plan. Critics argue that Japan continues to support fossil fuel projects, such as coal-fired power plants, in some partner countries, such as Bhutan, Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia, Nepal, Serbia and Vietnam<sup>8</sup>. This raises questions about the coherence of Japan's climate policy and its commitment to promoting clean energy and low-carbon development globally. Furthermore, there have been concerns about the degree of transparency and inclusivity in the decision-making process of the Green Aid Plan. Some critics argue that the involvement of local communities and stakeholders in the planning and implementation of projects is not always adequate. Ensuring meaningful engagement and participation of local communities is crucial for the success and sustainability of projects funded under the Green Aid Plan.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### Bolivia

The Isiboro Sécore National Park and Indigenous Territory conflict in Bolivia revolves around the struggle for the protection of the Isiboro Sécore National Park and Indigenous Territory (TIPNIS), which is located in the country's eastern region. The

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<sup>8</sup> "Japan Renews Support to Developing Countries on Climate Change with New \$23.6 Million Package: United Nations Development Programme." *UNDP*, 1 May 2023, [www.undp.org/press-releases/japan-renews-support-developing-countries-climate-change-new-236-million-package](https://www.undp.org/press-releases/japan-renews-support-developing-countries-climate-change-new-236-million-package).

conflict gained international attention in 2011 when the Bolivian government proposed the construction of a highway that would cut through the heart of the TIPNIS, potentially leading to deforestation, habitat destruction, and encroachment on Indigenous lands.

The TIPNIS is home to several Indigenous communities, including the Moxeño-Trinitario, Yuracaré, and Chimán peoples, who have relied on its biodiversity-rich forests and waterways for their traditional livelihoods for centuries. The proposed highway, known as the "Villa Tunari-San Ignacio de Moxos," was intended to facilitate transportation and economic development in the region but was met with vehement opposition from Indigenous groups and environmental activists who feared irreversible damage to the delicate ecosystem and cultural heritage.

The conflict sparked massive protests across the country, with Indigenous communities marching to the capital city, La Paz, to demand the government abandon the highway project. The Bolivian government, led by then-President Evo Morales, initially faced a challenging dilemma. On one hand, Morales had campaigned as a champion of Indigenous rights and environmental protection, but on the other hand, he saw the highway as a key to economic development and integration for historically marginalized regions.

Ultimately, the conflict persisted over the following years, with ongoing debates over development, environmental protection, and Indigenous rights. While the Bolivian government continued to assert the importance of the highway for regional development, many activists and Indigenous communities insisted on the need to preserve the TIPNIS and its cultural and ecological significance. The TIPNIS conflict remains a complex and contentious issue, highlighting the challenges of balancing economic development and infrastructure needs with environmental conservation and Indigenous rights in Bolivia.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Delgado, Ana Carolina. "The Tipnis Conflict in Bolivia." *Contexto Internacional*, Pontifícia Universidade Católica Do Rio de Janeiro, Instituto de Relações Internacionais, 8 May 2017, [www.scielo.br/jj/cint/a/ZwwStmzngfTLxBfRLwNptXN/?lang=en#](http://www.scielo.br/jj/cint/a/ZwwStmzngfTLxBfRLwNptXN/?lang=en#).

## France

One of the potential manifestations of green colonialism in modern France is the implementation of large-scale conservation projects that prioritize biodiversity protection without adequately considering the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples living in or near these areas. Such projects may lead to the displacement of indigenous communities from their ancestral lands, disrupting their traditional ways of life and undermining their cultural practices and identities.

Additionally, France's pursuit of renewable energy projects, such as hydropower dams and wind farms, can sometimes lead to conflicts with local communities. The development of these projects may involve land acquisition and resource exploitation, which can negatively impact the livelihoods of indigenous populations and other marginalized groups who rely on the affected areas for their sustenance and well-being.

The impacts of France's colonial past on indigenous peoples continue to be felt today. Many indigenous communities still face marginalization, poverty, and discrimination as a result of historical injustices and ongoing socio-economic disparities. Efforts to address these legacies include land restitution, cultural revitalization programs, and policies aimed at promoting indigenous rights and representation. However, there is still much work to be done to fully reckon with and address the consequences of France's colonial history and its lasting impact on indigenous communities.

## Japan

Japan's history and current role on the issue of green colonialism have been influenced by its unique position as an economic powerhouse with a complex relationship with the environment. In the past, Japan experienced rapid industrialization and urbanization, leading to environmental challenges such as

pollution and deforestation. This growth sometimes marginalizes local communities and impacts their traditional ways of life. In recent years, Japan has expanded its focus on environmental stewardship to the international stage. The country has engaged in foreign aid and investment in green initiatives in other countries, particularly in Asia and Africa, under the "Green Aid Plan".

### **Norway**

The Fosen Vind project, located in central Norway, was one of Europe's largest onshore wind energy developments, consisting of six wind farms with a total capacity of over 1,000 megawatts.<sup>10</sup> While renewable energy projects like this are essential for addressing climate change, their implementation must be carried out in a manner that respects the rights and interests of local and Indigenous communities.

One of the main concerns raised by the Sámi people was the potential impact of the wind farm on their traditional reindeer herding practices. Reindeer herding is a crucial aspect of Sámi culture and livelihood, and the wind farm's construction and associated infrastructure could disrupt the reindeer's migration routes, grazing grounds, and calving areas.

Another issue was the lack of meaningful consultation and consent from the Sámi community during the planning and decision-making processes of the Fosen Vind project. International law, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), emphasizes the right of Indigenous peoples to free, prior, and informed consent regarding projects that may affect their lands and resources. However, the Sámi people claimed that their voices were not adequately heard, and their concerns were not adequately taken into account during the project's development.

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<sup>10</sup>Statkraft. "Fosen Vind." *Statkraft*, [www.statkraft.com/about-statkraft/where-we-operate/norway/fosen-vind/#:~:text=Fosen%20Vind%20is%20realising%20Europe's,combined%20capacity%20of%201%2C057%20MW](http://www.statkraft.com/about-statkraft/where-we-operate/norway/fosen-vind/#:~:text=Fosen%20Vind%20is%20realising%20Europe's,combined%20capacity%20of%201%2C057%20MW).

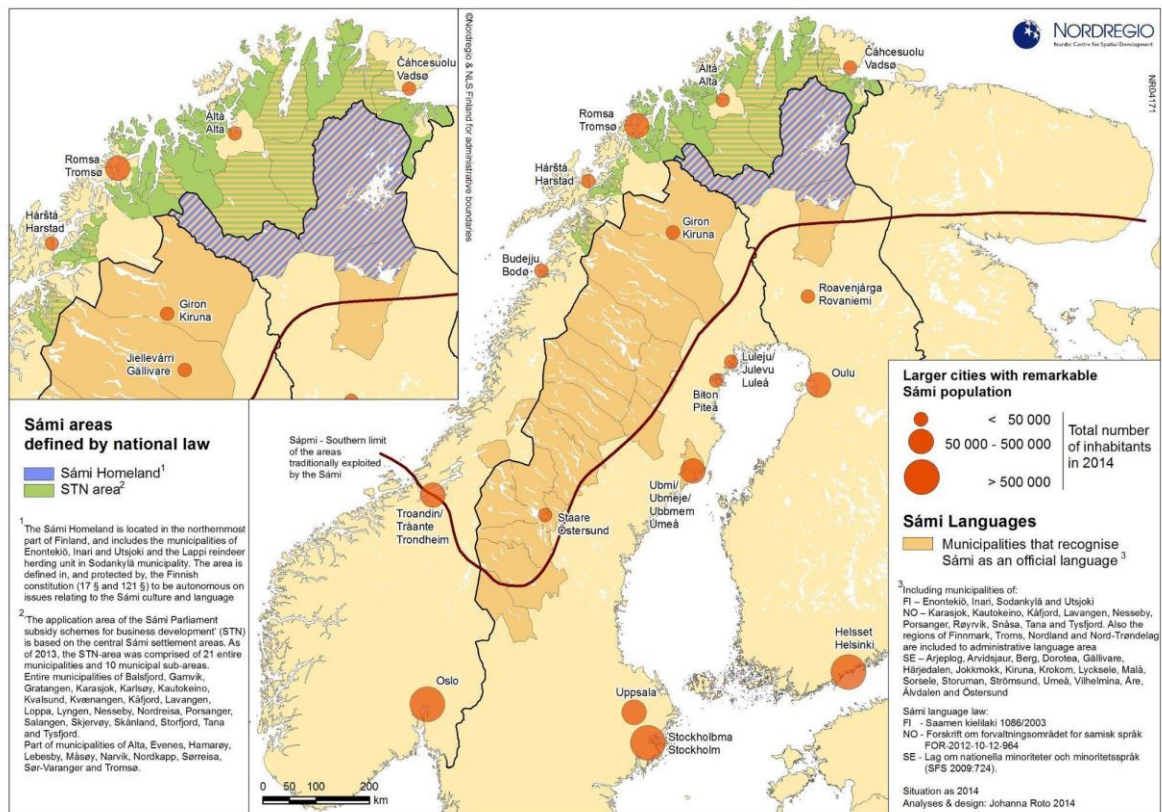


Figure 3. Map of the Sámi people's distribution in Norway<sup>11</sup>

## United Kingdom

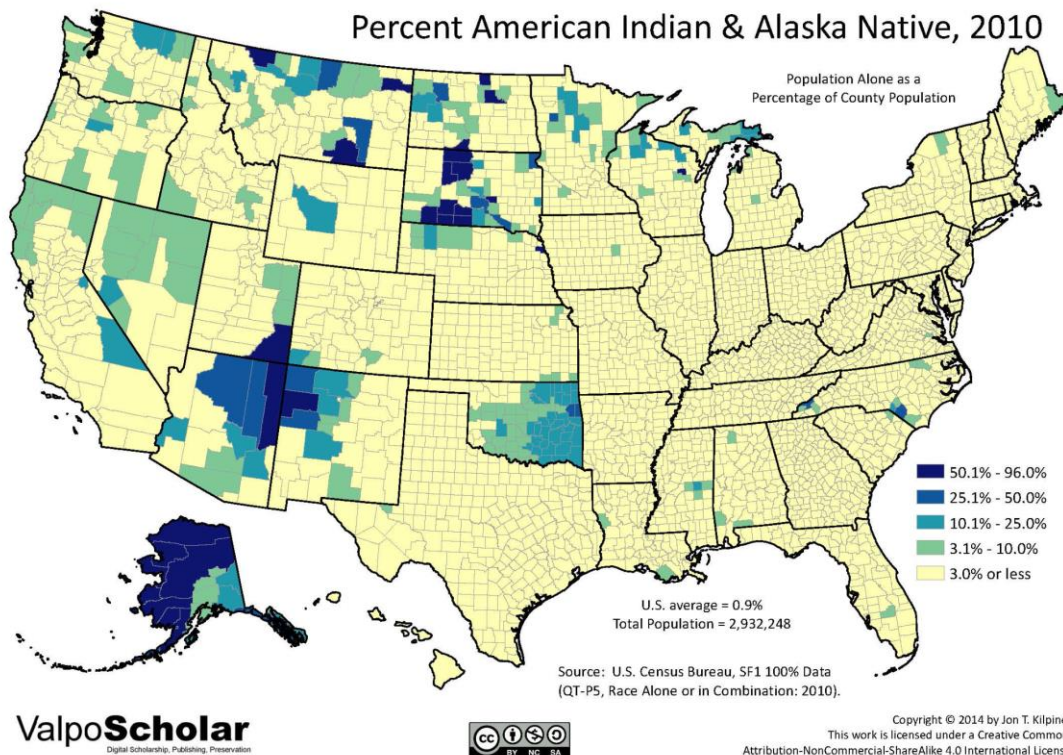
The United Kingdom's history and current role in the issue of green colonialism have been influenced by its colonial past and its position as a major global player in environmental conservation. In the modern context, the United Kingdom has taken notable steps to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable practices. However, critics argue that some of the United Kingdom's environmental initiatives may inadvertently perpetuate a form of green colonialism. The funding and implementation of large-scale projects in other countries may prioritize the United Kingdom's interests and agenda, potentially sidelining local communities and overlooking their rights and aspirations.

<sup>11</sup> "Sámi Areas Defined by National Law." Nordregio, 2 Apr. 2020, nordregio.org/maps/sami-areas-defined-by-national-law/.



## United States of America

The United States, a country founded as a result of colonialism itself, has a complex history regarding green colonialism, with past conservation efforts sometimes leading to the displacement and marginalization of indigenous populations. For instance, the creation of national parks in the United States often involved the forced removal of Native American communities from their ancestral lands. In the present day, the United States has increasingly recognized the importance of incorporating environmental justice into its sustainability policies, acknowledging the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on marginalized communities.



**Figure 4. Native populations in the United States<sup>12</sup>**

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is a treaty introduced by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which plays a crucial role in fighting green colonialism by safeguarding the rights and liberties of individuals and communities affected by environmental initiatives. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966, the ICCPR is a comprehensive human rights treaty that upholds fundamental freedoms, such as the right to life, freedom of expression, and the right to participate in public affairs. In the context of green colonialism, the ICCPR serves as a powerful tool to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, who are often disproportionately impacted by environmental projects and policies. By ensuring their right to be informed, consulted, and participate in decision-making processes the ICCPR helps to counteract the historical power imbalances and promote more equitable and inclusive approaches.

### **United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)**

Formally known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Refugee Agency is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution<sup>13</sup>. Its primary goal is to safeguard the rights and well-being of forcibly displaced people, including refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless individuals, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The UNHCR operates under the mandate of the United Nations General Assembly and the guiding principles of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which outline the rights and responsibilities of nations towards refugees. Additionally, the agency collaborates

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<sup>12</sup> Kilpinen, Jon T. "01.02 Percent American Indian & Alaska Native, 2010." *ValpoScholar*, scholar.valpo.edu/usmaps/7/.

<sup>13</sup> "ABOUT UNHCR." *UNHCR*, [www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr](http://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr).



with governments, international organizations, and non-governmental partners to advocate for refugee rights, strengthen asylum systems, and address the root causes of displacement.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
1492	Christopher Columbus reached the Americas, marking the beginning of European colonial expansion.
1600s - 1800s	European powers established colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, leading to the extraction of resources such as minerals, timber, and agricultural products, often without regard for environmental consequences.
March 1st, 1872	Yellowstone National Park is established in the United States as the first national park in the world. While promoting conservation ideals, the establishment also resulted in the displacement of Native American tribes from their ancestral lands.
1885	The Berlin Conference leads to the "Scramble for Africa," with European powers dividing up the continent for resource extraction and economic gain
October 24th, 1945	The United Nations are founded, recognizing the importance of international cooperation in addressing global environmental issues.
1960s - 1970s	The modern environmental movement emerges, advocating for conservation, pollution control, and awareness of

	environmental issues, however often overlooking the impacts of Western policies on the Global South.
March 21st, 1994	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is adopted, acknowledging the need for international cooperation to combat climate change.
December 12th, 2015	The Paris Agreement is adopted at COP21, aiming to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius. However, concerns arise that developed countries may use climate financing as a means to exert control over the environmental policies of developing countries.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Several historical attempts have been made to address the issue of green colonialism and promote more equitable environmental practices. These initiatives have often been led by indigenous peoples and grassroots movements, as well as regional or international organizations.

### Environmental Justice Movement

In the late 20th century, the Environmental Justice Movement emerged in the United States as a response to the disproportionate burden of pollution and environmental hazards borne by marginalized communities, including indigenous peoples. The movement sought to address the intersecting issues of environmental degradation and social injustice, highlighting the impacts of green colonialism on vulnerable populations. Activists and community members organized protests, conducted research, and advocated for policy changes to ensure that environmental policies and regulations were equally enforced across all communities. The Environmental Justice Movement brought national attention to the concept of

environmental racism and emphasized the importance of considering the rights and concerns of marginalized communities in environmental decision-making.

### **Indigenous Environmental Movement**

During the same period, the Indigenous Environmental Movement gained momentum globally. Indigenous peoples around the world mobilized to protect their lands, resources, and cultural heritage from the impacts of green colonialism. They engaged in protests, blockades, and legal battles to challenge development projects that threatened their ancestral territories. One notable example is the movement against the Belo Monte Dam in Brazil, where indigenous groups, together with environmental and human rights organizations, successfully campaigned against the dam's construction due to its potential negative impact on indigenous communities and the environment. The Indigenous Environmental Movement underscored the significance of recognizing indigenous land rights and integrating traditional ecological knowledge into environmental governance.

### **Kari-Oca I Indigenous and Environmental Conference**

In Latin America, the Kari-Oca I Indigenous and Environmental Conference in 1992 was another notable attempt to address green colonialism. Held in parallel to the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, the Kari-Oca I conference was organized by indigenous leaders to voice their concerns about environmental degradation and cultural destruction resulting from development projects. The conference led to the adoption of the Kari-Oca Declaration, which called for the recognition of indigenous rights and the integration of indigenous knowledge in environmental and sustainable development policies.

### **Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)**

In the Arctic region, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has played a significant role in addressing green colonialism and promoting indigenous rights. The ICC represents the Inuit people living in the Arctic regions of Canada, Greenland, Alaska, and Russia. The council has actively engaged in international forums to advocate for

environmental protection, climate action, and the recognition of indigenous rights. By participating in the Arctic Council, the ICC has influenced decisions on issues such as sustainable development, indigenous knowledge, and environmental stewardship in the region.

While these historical attempts have contributed to raising awareness about the impact of green colonialism and the need to protect indigenous rights and environmental justice, challenges persist. The continued marginalization of indigenous peoples and their exclusion from decision-making processes in environmental governance remains an ongoing concern. Moreover, the struggle to balance environmental conservation with social justice and indigenous sovereignty underscores the complexity of addressing green colonialism comprehensively.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Full Global Decolonization**

Global decolonization is a critical endeavour that seeks to rectify historical injustices, dismantle oppressive systems, and foster a more equitable and inclusive world order. For centuries, colonial powers exploited and subjugated indigenous peoples and their lands, leaving a legacy of systemic oppression, cultural erasure, and economic disparities. Decolonization, in the context of green colonialism, involves dismantling the systems that perpetuate the dominance of powerful nations over the resources, land, and knowledge of colonized regions. The first step towards addressing green colonialism and achieving global decolonization is to empower and prioritize the voices and participation of indigenous communities in all environmental decision-making processes. Governments and international organizations must adopt policies that recognize and respect the rights of indigenous peoples, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). This includes ensuring meaningful consultation and obtaining free, prior, and informed consent

(FPIC) from affected communities before implementing any green projects on their ancestral lands or territories.

### **Deindustrialization of Environmental Policies**

Deindustrialization of environmental policies suggests scaling back or reevaluating industrial activities and practices that have significant environmental impacts. It may involve reducing reliance on fossil fuels, shifting towards renewable energy sources, implementing stricter regulations on pollution and waste and fostering sustainable practices across industries.

It is important to note that the deindustrialization of environmental policies should not be mistaken for a complete abandonment of industry or economic development. Rather, it calls for a more responsible and equitable approach to economic growth that prioritizes environmental sustainability and social well-being over short-term profit-driven interests. Implementing this solution would require international cooperation, policy reforms, and a commitment to respecting the rights and sovereignty of affected communities worldwide.

Green colonialism perpetuates environmental injustices by disproportionately affecting marginalized communities in developing nations. By embracing the deindustrialization of environmental policies, the global community can strive for environmental justice, acknowledging historical inequalities and working towards a fair distribution of benefits and burdens concerning environmental protection and resource management.

### **Inclusion of Indigenous people in international decision-making**

It is crucial to adopt a bottom-up approach to decision-making, ensuring that Indigenous communities are involved from the early stages of project development. This can be achieved through participatory mapping exercises, where local knowledge is integrated with scientific data to identify areas of environmental significance and indigenous cultural importance. Additionally, free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)

must be obtained from affected communities before proceeding with any projects that may impact their lands and resources, as enshrined in the UNDRIP.

Establishing robust conflict resolution mechanisms is essential in preventing and addressing disputes that may arise between developers and indigenous communities. Peacekeeping efforts can be integrated into the process by appointing impartial mediators who have an understanding of both environmental concerns and the cultural significance of the affected lands. These mediators can facilitate dialogue, negotiations, and compromise, aiming to find solutions that strike a balance between conservation goals and indigenous rights.

### **Legislation of international agreements**

Establishing legislation and international agreements to address green colonialism is a crucial step toward rectifying historical injustices and promoting equitable environmental practices. The impacts of green colonialism on indigenous communities and marginalized populations have been far-reaching, leading to the loss of land, resources, and cultural heritage. To combat this issue, nations must establish robust legal frameworks that prioritize environmental conservation while upholding the rights and autonomy of indigenous peoples. International agreements should reflect the principles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), emphasizing the need for meaningful consultation, and free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in the decision-making processes.

Collaborative efforts between nations can lead to the development of guidelines and best practices for environmentally sustainable projects that respect indigenous rights. Furthermore, international bodies, such as the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), can play a role in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of green projects to ensure compliance with human rights standards.

## FURTHER READING

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