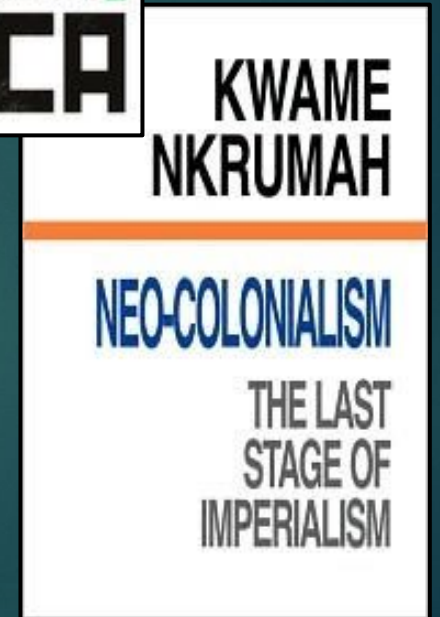
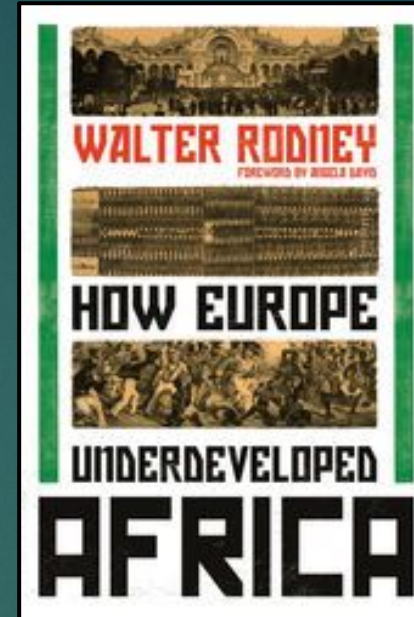


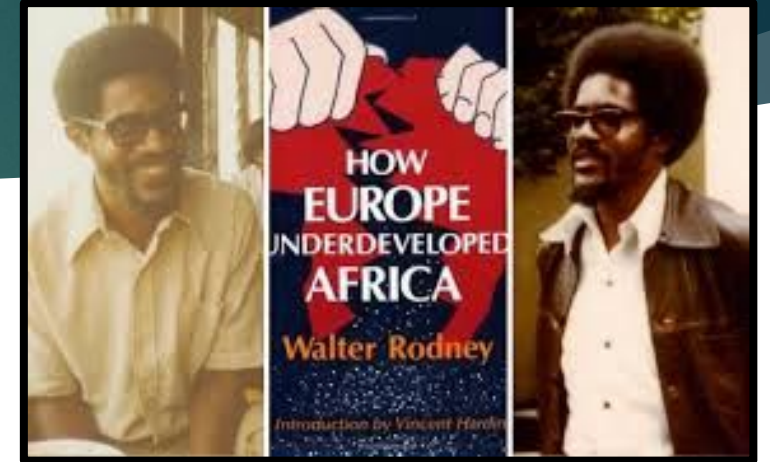
# How Europe Underdeveloped Africa and Neocolonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism



# How Europe Underdeveloped Africa

By Walter Rodney, a Guyanese political activist and historian

<http://abahlali.org/files/3295358-walter-rodney.pdf>



- ▶ “Rodney shows why a resource rich continent like Africa suffers from tremendous poverty while Europe has been economically dominant for several centuries.”

Some quotes  
in the following  
slides were written  
for this power  
point by Makasi  
Motema, People’s  
Power Assemblies  
NYC Organizer



- ▶ “He explains how the economic growth of Europe and the poverty of Africa are inextricably linked. Europe would never have achieved economic dominance without extracting slave labor and resources from Africa.” Makasi Motema

# How Europe Underdeveloped Africa

- ▶ The slave trade extracted African men and women who ended up in the Americas. The population loss was ten times greater than the 11 million normally cited.
- ▶ While the populations of Europe and Asia more than doubled between 1650 and 1850, there was no increase at all in Africa during the two centuries when the trade was at its height. By robbing the strongest most able-bodied young men and women, imperialism drained Africa's human resources.



# How Europe Underdeveloped Africa

- ▶ Rodney shows that wages paid to workers in Europe and the US were much higher than wages paid to African workers with disparities between four and up to even thirty times.
- ▶ He connects national oppression with the specific modes of labor exploitation. “By any standards, labor was cheap in Africa. Capitalists did not pay for Africans to maintain their families.” The employer under colonialism paid an extremely small wage – usually insufficient to keep the worker physically alive – and, therefore, he had to grow food to survive.



*Walter Rodney*  
23.03.1942 - 13.06.1980



# Angela Davis: Forward to the 2018 edition of “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa”



Although colonization of Africa lasted only 70 years it was during this period that colossal changes took place both in the capitalist world (Europe and United States) as well as the emergent socialist world (especially in Russia and China).

Imperialism and the various processes that bolstered colonialism created impenetrable structural blockades to economic, political and social progress in Africa. At the same time his argument is not meant to absolve Africans of the ultimate responsibility for development.

Rodney paid attention to the effects of colonialism on gender, African women's social, religious, constitutional, and political privileges and rights disappeared while the economic exploitation continued and was often intensified, it redefined men's work as modern while women's work was "traditional" or backward. The deterioration in the status of women's work was bound up with the consequent loss of the right to set Indigenous standards of what work had merit and what did not. Davis said it was an important book to help contest the notions of gender within the Black radical movements of that era.



Those of us who refuse to concede that global capitalism represents the planet's best future and that Africa and the former third world are destined to remain forever ensconced in the poverty of "underdevelopment" are confronted with this crucial question: How can we encourage radical critiques of capitalism as integral to struggles against racism as we also advance the recognition that we cannot envision the dismantling of capitalism as long as the structures of racism remain intact. In this sense, it is up to us to follow, expand upon and deepen Walter Rodney's legacy.



# Neocolonialism in Africa

Kwame Nkrumah, was a Ghanaian revolutionary and the first Prime Minister and President of Ghana. He helped lead Ghana to independence from Britain in 1957. Nkrumah wrote that “the neo-colonialism of today represents imperialism in its final and perhaps its most dangerous stage.”

Kwame Nkrumah, “Neo-Colonialism, the Last Stage of Imperialism”(1965)

<https://politicalanthro.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/nkrumah.pdf>



# Neocolonialism in Africa

“Nkrumah’s writings give us a fundamental understanding of the practice of Neocolonialism in the global South. This practice, which has been repeated over and over, is the destruction of any African leader who attempts to provide material benefits to African workers and peasants.” (Makasi Motema)





## Patrice Lumumba

**was a revolutionary leader who helped win independence for the Congo from colonial Belgium. He was the first Prime Minister of the independent Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1960.**

“Said leaders (Nkrumah, Lumumba, Sankara, etc.) are slandered as dictators. Their political opponents are plied with cash and saddled with arms. When the inevitable coup takes place (guided by CIA surveillance), they are replaced by actual dictators whose only objectives are the extraction of wealth from the land and people - divided up between local puppets and Western corporations - and the maintenance of their own power. As this cycle repeats itself, Africa continues to be destabilized with material conditions for the people ever worsening.” (Makasi Motema)



**Thomas Sankara was a revolutionary and President of Burkina Faso until 1987. He was a Marxist, pan-Africanist and charismatic iconic figure often called "Africa's Che Guevara".**

“As this cycle repeats itself, Africa continues to be destabilized with material conditions for the people ever worsening.” (Makasi Motema)



Che Guevara and Nkrumah, 1965

“Nkrumah explained how Marxism should be applied on the African continent; that the only possible way Africa can be united is through proletarian revolution.

“The elimination of class, through the proletarian seizure of the means of production, would eliminate the sectarian differences that needlessly divide Africa.” (Makasi Motema)



“Neo-colonialism can take many forms: in an extreme case the troops of the imperial power may garrison the territory of the neo-colonial State and control the government of it.”

(Kwame Nkrumah)

***What are examples of this form of neo-colonialism today?***

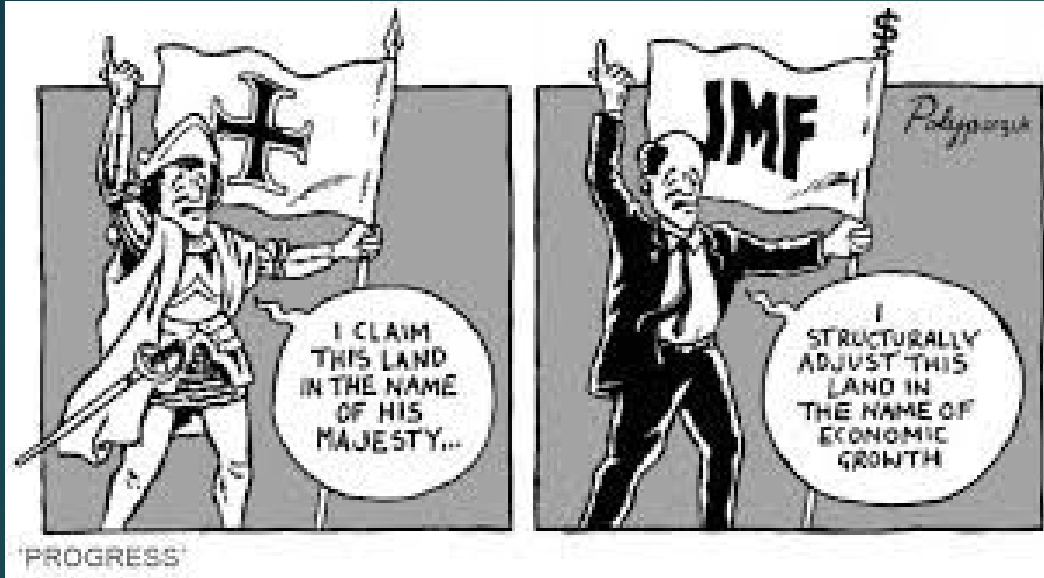


## Honest Accounts 2017 - How the world profits from Africa's wealth

June 6, 2017

“More often, however, neo-colonialist control is exercised economically. The neo-colonial State may be obliged to take the manufactured products of the imperialist power to the exclusion of competing products from elsewhere. Control over government policy in the neo-colonial State may be secured by payments towards the cost of running the State, through civil servants who can dictate policy, and monetary control over foreign exchange through the imposition of a banking system controlled by the imperial power.” (Kwame Nkrumah)





# Neocolonialism in Africa

“The result of neo-colonialism is that foreign capital is used for the exploitation rather than for the development of the colonies. Investment under neo-colonialism increases rather than decreases the gap between the rich and the poor countries of the world.”  
(Kwame Nkrumah)



“Neo-colonialism is the worst form of imperialism. For those who practice it, it means power without responsibility and for those who suffer from it, it means exploitation without redress. In the days of old-fashioned colonialism, the imperial power had at least to explain and justify at home the actions it was taking abroad. In the colony those who served the ruling imperial power could at least look to its protection against any violent move by their opponents. With neo-colonialism neither is the case.” (Kwame Nkrumah)





“In order to make it attractive to those upon whom it is practiced it must be shown as capable of raising their living standards, but the economic object of neo-colonialism is to keep those standards depressed in the interest of the developed countries. It is only when this contradiction is understood that the failure of innumerable ‘aid’ programs, many of them well intentioned, can be explained.” (Kwame Nkrumah)





“The rulers of neo-colonial States derive their authority to govern, not from the will of the people, but from the support which they obtain from their neo-colonialist masters. They have therefore little interest in developing education, strengthening the bargaining power of their workers employed by expatriate firms, or indeed of taking any step which would challenge the colonial pattern of commerce and industry, which it is the object of neo-colonialism to preserve.”

(Kwame Nkrumah)





“Neo-colonialism is a mill-stone around the necks of the developed countries which practice it. Unless they can rid themselves of it, it will drown them.”  
(Kwame Nkrumah)

# Africa's debt crisis calls for reparations

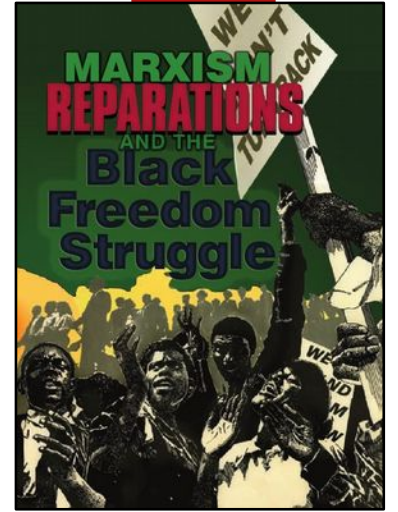
**Monica  
Moorehead**

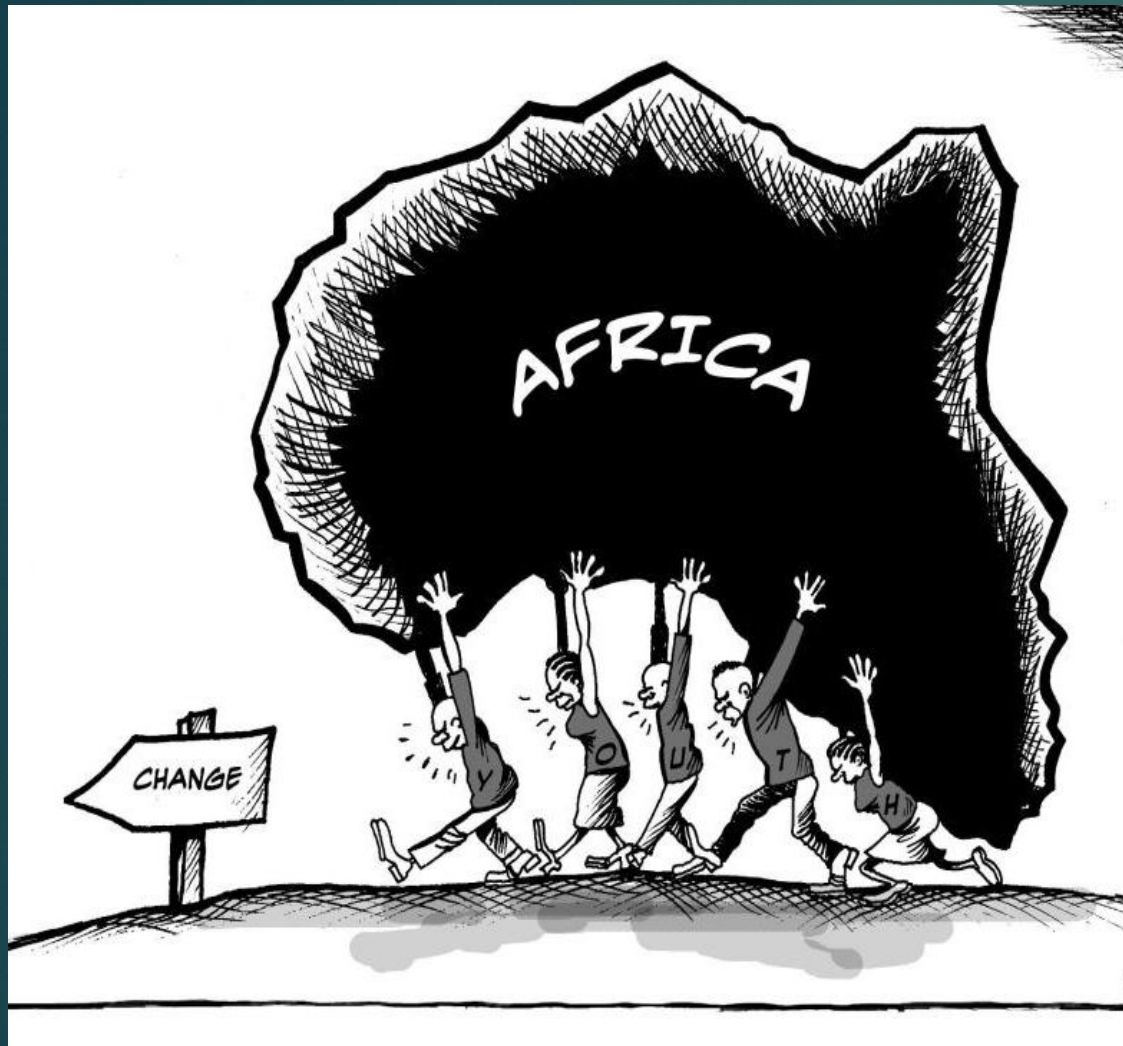
**“Marxism,  
Reparations and  
the Black Freedom  
Struggle”**

[https://www.workers.org/reparations/reparations-marxism\\_bk.pdf](https://www.workers.org/reparations/reparations-marxism_bk.pdf)

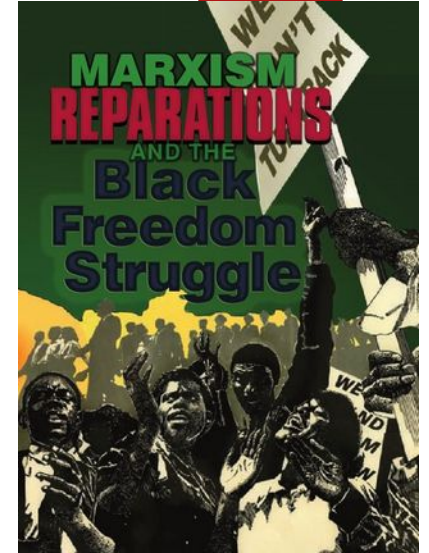


African exports, from oil to textiles, are generally unable to compete with the imperialist countries, which can flood the worldwide capitalist market with cheaper goods and rich subsidies. Africa is in the dire situation that it is today because capitalism, a system that has to either expand or die, has denied it the right to develop.



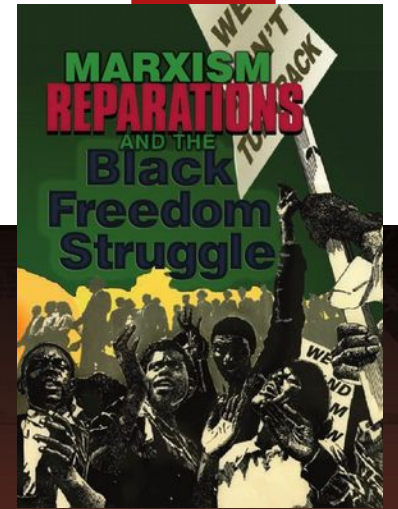


Even if the debt were cancelled in all of the African countries, which should be done immediately, this would not automatically solve Africa's crisis of underdevelopment. Short-term solutions are needed to deal with the current suffering, like free, on-demand HIV/AIDS drugs, food, health-care workers and much more.





The African continent has been bled dry because of the devastating slave trade, colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism. Africa does not owe the banks one red cent. it should be the other way around—that is, the class of greedy bankers and bosses owe the African peoples billions if not trillions of dollars in reparations, especially providing state-of-the-art technology with no political or economic strings attached.



There are still 61 colonies in the world; dominated by 8 countries:

United States (14)

United Kingdom (15)

France (16)

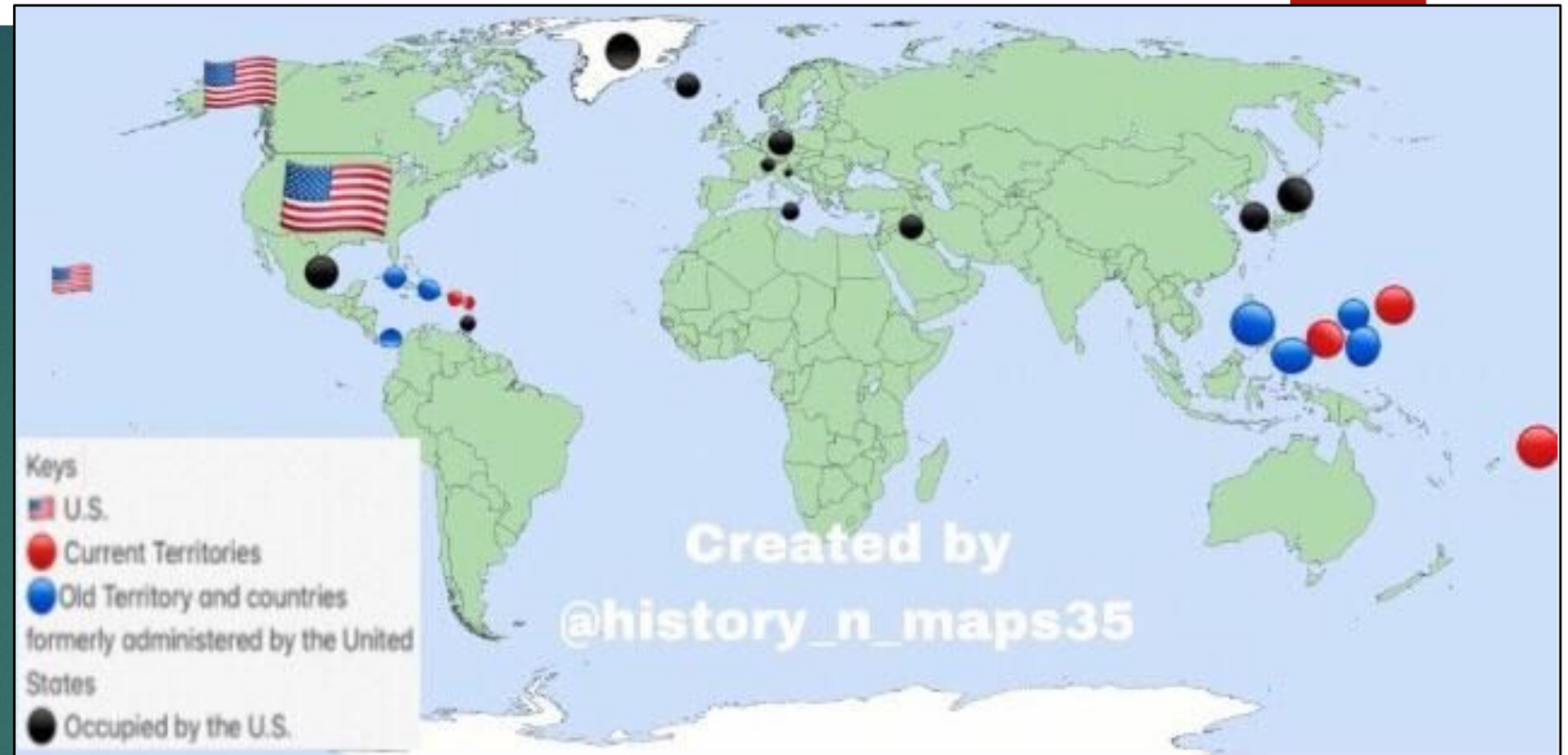
Australia (6)

Denmark (2)

Netherlands (2)

New Zealand (3)

Norway (3)



After the Spanish-American War, the U.S. referred to their new conquests as colonies.

Now, colonies are euphemistically referred to as territories.

As of 2019, there are five U.S territories: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.