

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
AT VANDERBILT

COFFEE, GLOBALIZATION, SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

October 11, 2021, 1:30-2:45 pm CT

Session #2



THE CHAIN
collaborative

WELCOME BACK!

- Any comments/questions from last week
- Day's Agenda
 - Brief review of the “dark history” of coffee, through the lens of Haiti
 - Coffee and trade before and after WWII
 - First wave coffee and the focus on economic growth
 - New definitions of sustainability



HAITIAN AND DOMINICAN HISTORY

- From 1802-1886, 11.2 million Africans **survived** the Middle Passage
- 4.8 million went to Brazil (43%), 450,000 to the US (4%), and 770,000 to Haiti, a place the size of Maryland (7%)
- Enslaved people (indigenous people, and those from all over a diverse Africa) were forced to grow sugar, coffee, and tobacco; the history of these commodities and their growth is connected to the history of slavery and racism – Pan Africanism and mestizo culture in part created by the trade of people
- In 1654, some “rogue” Frenchmen settled in/occupied Haiti before the French government formally got involved
- The DR was occupied and colonized by Spain, and the island was thus divided in half by the Spanish and French governments

HAITIAN AND DOMINICAN HISTORY, CONTINUED

- Haiti (Saint Domingue) became the richest colony in the world and acted as a trading post for France; they produced 25-30% of the world's sugar (by 1788, 50% of coffee)
- In the DR, they could no longer compete with sugar production, and turned to cattle ranching, which didn't require similar labor (these structures impact DR today)
- Revolution began in Haiti in 1791
- The end of slavery in Haiti was initially ratified by France (and plantation agriculture continued under Black elite), until 1802 when Napoleon declared slavery legal again
- Civil war erupted, and in 1804, Haiti overthrew France, and established their own nation
- It was the only successful slave revolt and the first Black republic

HAITIAN AND DOMINICAN HISTORY, CONTINUED

- Plantations and infrastructure for coffee and sugar were destroyed
- Trade with Haiti was cut off, while France forced Haiti to pay reparations to plantation owners
- Haiti paid 1 billion dollars to France between 1825 and 1974, and by 1914, 67% of their budget went to France
- US imperialism at the time was strong. The US invaded Haiti to plant sugar in 1915, and then invaded the DR one year later.
- The poverty Haiti faces today has a lot of root causes, but among them is the loss of the coffee economy and international trade
- Fast forward to WWII....

THE UNITED NATIONS AND BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS

- The principles of the U.N. Charter were first formulated at the San Francisco Conference in 1945, which was attended by 50 nations, among them 9 European states, 21 North, Central, and South American republics, 7 Middle Eastern states, 5 British Commonwealth nations, and 2 Soviet republics, 2 East Asian nations, and 3 African states.
- The San Francisco Conference laid out a structure for a new international organization that was to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,...to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,...to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.” <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-united-nations-is-born>
- “The Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) were set up at a meeting of 43 countries in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA in July 1944. Their aims were to help rebuild the shattered postwar economy and to promote international economic cooperation.” <https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2019/01/art-320747/>

THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE, 1947

“With the Truman Doctrine, President Harry S. Truman established that the United States would provide political, military and economic assistance to all democratic nations under threat from external or internal authoritarian forces. The Truman Doctrine effectively reoriented U.S. foreign policy, away from its usual stance of withdrawal from regional conflicts not directly involving the United States, to one of possible intervention in far away conflicts.”

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/truman-doctrine>



IMPERIALISM AS DEFINED BY MERRIAM-WEBSTER

im·pe·ri·al·ism | \ i
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Definition of *imperialism*

: the policy, practice, or advocacy of extending the power and dominion of a nation especially by direct territorial acquisitions or by gaining indirect control over the political or economic life of other areas

WHAT DOES COFFEE HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

- Many people still term what the U.S. did with trade as imperialism. Extending or maintaining economic and political control over others can be evidenced by international trade and expanded through international trade, not only through war or invasion.
- How was control extended? Though various countries achieved “independence” at various times, many continued the systems of trade that were established during colonialism.
- As countries maintained these systems, the UN and the Bretton Woods Institutions created economic and political policies to at once benefit the so-called “underdeveloped nations,” and also maintain their own influence and power.
- Many policies had to do with coffee

NEOCOLONIALISM AS DEFINED BY MERRIAM-WEBSTER

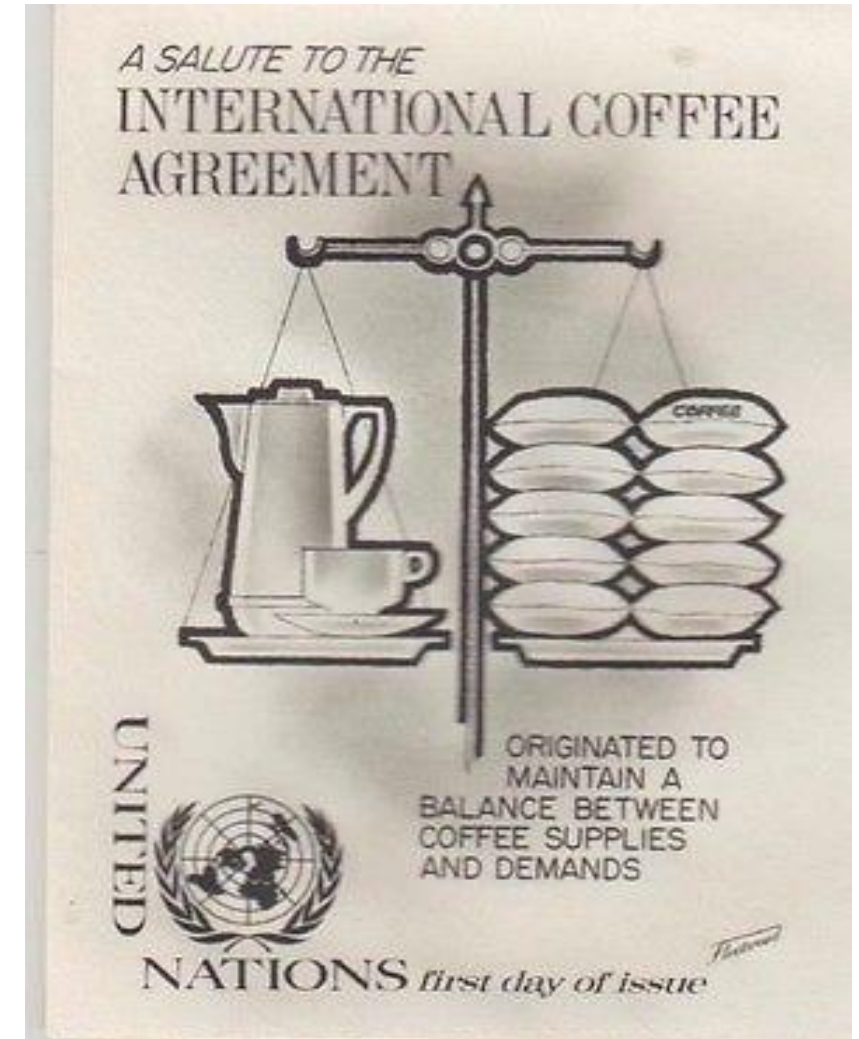
neo·co·lo·nial·ism |
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 nē-ə- , li- \

Definition of *neocolonialism*

: the economic and political policies by which a great power indirectly maintains or extends its influence over other areas or people

THE ICA AS DEVELOPMENT?

- The ICA was first signed in 1962 to stabilize prices for consumers and to maintain coffee farmers through the use of quotas
- The system was controlled by governments, who remained sovereign
- States were the agents of development
- During the Cold War, the ICA was important to many states to ensure that coffee producers would not “fall to communism”
- During the first wave of coffee: coffee from nowhere and focus on economic growth

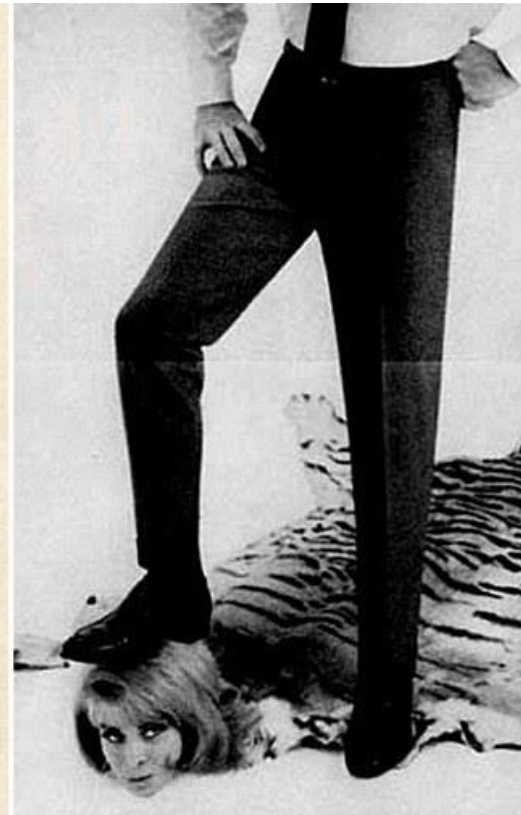


FIRST WAVE COFFEE

If your husband ever finds out
you're not "store-testing" for fresher coffee...



*... if he discovers you're
still taking chances
on getting flat, stale coffee
... woe be unto you!
For today
there's a sure
and certain way
to test for freshness
before you buy*



It's nice to have a girl around the ho

she was a tiger lady, our hero didn't have to fire a
floor her. After one look at his **Mr. Leggs** slacks, she
ly to have him walk all over her. That noble styling
thes the savage heart! If you'd like your own doll to

doll carpeting, hunt up a pair of
slacks. Such as our new automatic
"Dacron"™ and 35% rayon—incom
About \$12.95 at plush-carpeted sta

ron For Fall!

Get yourself a new pair

Photo from dailymail.co.uk

ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR WHOM?



*Photo by: Augustus Binu, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=41205743>*

THE BRUNDTLAND DEFINITION

- In December 1983, the United Nations and its Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar from Peru, appointed Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former Prime Minister of Norway, to chair the Brundtland Commission
- Its goal: to support countries to pursue “sustainable development” collectively
- Put the term “sustainable development” onto the global conscious
- *Our Common Future*, or the *Brundtland Report* was published in 1987, formally dissolving the Commission

Photo by: Foreign and Commonwealth Office - Flickr, OGL v1.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=32297844>



THE BRUNDTLAND DEFINITION

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

THREE-LEGGED STOOL THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY



- Social
- Environmental
- Economic

The stool in action:
People, Planet, Profit: The Triple
Bottom Line

Photo from chrisandsusanbeesley.com

THANK YOU AND SEE YOU NEXT
WEEK!