

Coloniality at Large



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Postcolonial theory has developed mainly in the U.S. academy, and it has focused chiefly on nineteenth and twentieth-century colonization and decolonization processes in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. Colonialism in Latin America originated centuries earlier, in the transoceanic adventures from which European modernity itself was born. It differs from later manifestations of European expansionism in other ways as well. "Coloniality at Large" brings together classic and new reflections on the theoretical implications of colonialism in Latin America. By

pointing out its particular characteristics, the contributors highlight some of the philosophical and ideological blind-spots of contemporary postcolonial theory as they offer a thorough analysis of that theory's applicability to Latin America's past and present. Written by internationally renowned scholars based in Latin America, the United States, and Europe, the essays reflect multiple disciplinary and ideological perspectives. Some are translated into English for the first time. The essays include theoretical reflections, literary criticism, and historical and ethnographic case studies focused on Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Brazil, the Andes, and the Caribbean. Contributors highlight the relation of Marxist thought, dependency theory, and liberation theology to Latin Americans' experience of and resistance to coloniality, and they emphasize the critique of Occidentalism and modernity as central to any understanding of the colonial project. Analyzing the many ways that Latin Americans have resisted imperialism and sought emancipation and sovereignty over several centuries, they delve into topics including violence, identity, otherness, memory, heterogeneity, and language. Contributors also explore Latin American intellectuals' ambivalence about, or objections to, the "post" in postcolonial; to many, globalization and neoliberalism are the contemporary guises of colonialism in Latin America.

作者介绍:

目录:

[Coloniality at Large_ 下载链接1](#)

标签

评论

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