Exposing new perspectives and realities in Ukraine, Lithuania and Istanbul

EYES ON EUROPE
The resurfacing of European colonialism

Decolonialism was forced on Europe abruptly without preparation. As a result, the continent never went through a process of mental decolonization. Is this the reason Europe increasingly behaves in neocolonial ways?

About the prevailing certainty that “such stability would last forever.”

But within a brief 30-year period from 1914 to 1948, that stability had disintegrated. Once emptied, killing millions of Europeans, centuries-old European empires collapsed, and power swiftly shifted from Europe to the United States.

As a result, Europe was forced to put a halt to its colonial activities and eventually cede those overseas territories that it assumed would be held forever. Decolonization occurred both unwillingly and unexceptionally. In the 70 years that followed, Europe took necessary measures in response to these radical changes. Dr. Amichai Magen, head of the Diplomacy and Conflict program at the Lauder School of Government-IDC Herzliya, explains that Germany, Italy, and other European countries that were once in light of the horrors of the Holocaust and World War II, Europe sought to rebrand itself as a post-nationalist, and in some respects, post-modern entity, rejecting hard power. As part of this identity construction, Europe tried to redefine itself as a human rights civilian superpower.

While Europe has put in place mechanisms to neutralize what it perceived were the causes of its 20th-century wars, it took no measures to address the other Earth-shattering events that occurred at the same time: the abrupt loss of power and the psychological undoing of its deep-rooted colonialist mentality, such as the notion of European superiority and Europe’s patronizing attitude toward the Third World.

Magen puts those 70 years in context: “From the end of World War II until about 1953, Europeans felt that they were largely isolated from the more tumultuous parts of the world they previously controlled as colonial masters. They were under an American security umbrella and enjoyed growing prosperity at home. This perception of glorious insulation allowed Europe to invest in its newly found identity: Position itself as a soft power, distinguish itself from the ‘American cow’ and fashion itself as a moral nanny to the world.”

But that insulation came to an end in recent years with waves of terrorism and immigration. Suddenly, the moral nanny began facing moral challenges.

Arguably, having failed to go through a process of mental decolonization back then, Europe is now re-

acting to these challenges with traces of its colonial way of thinking. This includes the underlying belief that Europe can bring in people from Third World countries, and that once in Europe, such immigrants will happily embrace European culture and values. After all, who does not want to be enlightened and Europeanized?

Then is a healthy debate in Europe about whether to welcome or reject immigrants, but there is general agreement that Europe should reject the immigrants’ way of life.

THE PILM: Building in Danger,” James Gillray, 1803. This editorial cartoon of the British prime minister William Pitt the Younger and newly crowned emperor of France Napoleon, both wearing military uniforms, carving up a terrestrial globe into spheres of influence.

Dr. SARA Wallace Goodman of University of California, Irvine: “We now know residency is not the silver bullet to integration. We now know that integration will lead to integration – that over time this or that intervention will yield to integration. Not only that, it became clear that there is a dilemma of integration. People were self-selecting to be part of in-group communities. When this became clear, governments stepped in.”

Some acknowledge that such government interventions – teaching the newcomers the European ways – is somewhat reminiscent of the similar programs to enlighten the “natives,” but that this time such policies are legitimate, since the “natives” are coming into Europe, not Europe going to the natives. The principle of indigeneity, the argument goes, means that European whites and their way of life have superior claims to Europe than that of incoming Africans, Arabs and Muslims.

But such an argument will fail to detonate into a debate that hinges on the essence of European indigeneity. Who was here first? For example, Europeans teach their children about the Reconquista completed in the 15th century – the reconquesting of European territory that was occupied by Muslims for 800 years. Some Muslims teach the same events as European colonialism – displacing the Muslim indigenous population that lived in Spain for 800 years, because of a white European claim that their ancestors lived there in ancient times. The moral debate over integration is also a debate about the core of European liberalism. For example, both France and Switzerland have openly denied citizenship to Muslim women who qualified and were
WHILE THERE is a robust internal debate in Israel, for example, Europe bizarrely decided to criticize
and failure to adjust could have dangerous and im-
impact. One of the most profound and outrageous acts of Eu-
ophiles is its actions to sabotage the PA into the Palestinian state.

Despite the fact that 500 natives lost their lives and Euro-
however, the EU continues to perpetuate the con-
the PA into the Palestinian state is another example of

Europe's actions toward the Palestinians. This is
were allowed to go and keep their clothes. Some argue

Modern times saw the rise of organized groups that perpetuate the conflict, such as the
discovery. Failure to prepare the hearts and heads of
chances for peace will be increased and Europe can redirect its capital and efforts

According to Magen, traces of European colonialism are not limited just to Europe but are also reflected in European attitudes
colonial context of European expansion. ‘This is the
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Europeans have an issue with Palestinians joining a hi-tech startup? Why do Europeans have an issue with Palestinians joining a hi-tech startup? Why do Europeans have an issue with Palestinians joining a hi-tech startup? Why do Europeans have an issue with Palestinians joining a hi-tech startup?

The Traces of European colonialism in its contempo-

As with colonialism, Europe justified its actions by arguing that the

European success story. The fact that 500 natives lost their lives and

Europeans who hijack the Palestinian cause to promote their

In particular, Europe's actions toward the Palestinians. This is
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