



Historical causes of uneven development

Historical causes have left deep-rooted legacies that continue to hinder the development of many countries today. *Erbe, Vermächtnis*

5 With a few exceptions - Ethiopia and Liberia, for example - the countries of the Global South were robbed of their political, economic and socio-cultural independence by the colonial powers during the *age of colonialism*. The “mother countries” *aligned* their colonies with their interests and forced them into an unequal *international division of labour*. The colonies were systematically *exploited*, and raw materials and agricultural products needed in Europe were exported without reinvesting into local economies. The development of the industrialized countries took place *at the expense* of the developing countries, meaning that the developing countries were “underdeveloped”. *Kolonialzeitalter ausrichten auf Internationale Arbeitsteilung ausgebeutet auf Kosten*

15 Infrastructure development in the colonies (roads and railways) was only in the self-interest of the colonial powers. They were built from newly founded *port cities* to economically relevant parts of the country and served to transport goods from mines or plantations to the coastal locations to be shipped to Europe. Routes within the countries to connect different regions with one another were usually prevented, so that the *indigenous population* could not work together against the colonial power. Ancient road systems *decayed*, e.g., in South America the routes created by the Incas, as well as former capitals, e.g., the Andes city of Cuzco, capital of the Inca Empire. *Hafenstädte Ureinwohner verfallen*

25 Large parts of the native populations died because of *diseases* imported by the Europeans, were *deprived of their rights*, or even exterminated. In Namibia, the Germans killed almost the entire population of the Herero people. Only since 2015, the German government has recognized the events of that time as *genocide*. Today in many former colonies the *descendants* of the native population are a small and *marginalized group*. *Krankheiten jmd. seiner Rechte berauben Völkermord; Nachkommen Randgruppe*

30 Until today many economies in developing countries have not become diversified and *self-sustaining*, but still export *raw materials* and cash crops¹ to the industrialized countries. However, the colonial period alone does not serve as a general explanation for today’s level of underdevelopment. In some newly industrialized countries (NICs), the colonial powers also laid the basis for a strong infrastructure and an effective administration. *eigenständig; Rohstoffe*

¹ Agrarprodukt, dessen Erzeugung nicht auf Existenzsicherung, sondern auf Profitmaximierung abzielt