Colonization Case Study: Guided Research Questions

*Use these questions to* ***guide your research*** *and for* ***group check-ins on******progress and understanding****. Take notes on your answers your group’s Google doc. Feel free to add your own research questions to this list to guide your own learning.* ***Your group will submit their answers to each section of questions (Background, P, E, G, etc.) on the due dates noted on your assignment handout.*** *Group members will divide section questions among them and include thorough and accurate answers on the group’s Google doc. The* ***group leader will submit*** *(share with* [*rdiana@osd.wednet.edu*](mailto:rdiana@osd.wednet.edu)*) the doc by the due dates.*

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| For Group Check-Ins: Go around the group and have each member share the following info. Then, discuss specific questions listed below to **bring together all learning and plan for future research tasks.**   * What I learned yesterday was… * What I need to find out is… * What I’ll work on today is... |

1. Background Info
   1. Who colonized your country?
   2. Why was your country colonized (what did your country offer - resource-wise - to the mother-country)?
   3. How was your country taken over (war, negotiated treaty, nonviolent take over or arrival)?
   4. Was it an easy conquest? Why or why not?
   5. During what period of time was your country a colony?

2. What happened politically?

1. What kind of political system was in place prior to colonization? Who held government position/s? Was there political representation of natives in the government prior to colonization? Why or why not?
2. What kind of political system was in place during colonization? Who held government positions? Were natives represented in the political system (e.g., could they vote, did they have rights)?
3. Was the process for independence for your country long or short?
   1. Peaceful or violent? How?
   2. Did the natives all agree on how to become independent (peacefully OR thru war)?
   3. List the details of the process for independence.
   4. Did the natives agree on the political system (e.g., Republic, dictatorship, or monarchy) that would exist after independence?
      1. Check with the economic person in your group on the economic system natives preferred (and why).
4. What kind of political system was in place just after independence?
   1. Did a dictator emerge to claim power for himself?
   2. If there were democratic elections, were they rigged or fair?
   3. Were natives represented in the political system?
   4. Was there political corruption and/or a lack of proper leadership in the government? Explain.
5. What kind of political system exists today?
   1. Who holds, or is able to hold, government positions?
   2. Is there political freedom for all members of society (e.g., representation, expression, voting, etc.)?
   3. Is there political corruption and/or a lack of proper leadership in the government today?

3. What happened economically?

1. What was the nature of work and making money prior to colonization (e.g., farming, cloth or textile making, business)? Was the economic system a “traditional economy”?
   1. During colonization (connect this to the reason your country was colonized - in background info section above)?
2. Did the mother-country invest in building infrastructure for the natives to use for their benefit (e.g., public schools, banks, businesses, healthcare facilities)?
3. After independence (and today), Is the country dependent on the same (or similar) way of living (e.g., farming and exporting to other countries) as they were during colonization? If yes, is this directed/desired by the current government? Is it desired by the general population of your country?
   1. a. If the country earns its income via different ways today, what are they? Is there a connection between these changes and colonization? Explain.
4. Did the natives agree on the economic system (e.g., free market, socialist, or communist) that would exist after independence? Why or why not? Why did they favor one system over possible others?
   1. Does that same economic system exist today? Why or why not? If yes, how has this impacted the health of the economy and the financial livelihoods of individuals in your country today?
   2. Check with the political person in your group on the economic system natives preferred (and why).
5. Today, where is your country ranked on the economic freedom index? Out of how many countries? Why is it ranked as such? *See The Economic Freedom Index (*<http://www.heritage.org/index/>*) for answers.*
6. Today, is your country known today to be poor, rich, or in-between? Why?
7. Today, is there a significant gap in income between rich and poor? Why or why not?
8. On what does the government spend most of its money today (e.g., education, public roads and transportation, retirement for public employees, defense/war, etc.). Does this help or hurt the growth of the economy? Why?
9. Today, how much debt does your country owe? To whom do they owe it?
   1. Why do you think they have this debt?
   2. Is your country paying the debt off or not? Why or why not?

4. What happened during geographically?

1. Did colonists migrate to your country? Did this cause migration of the native population? Explain.
2. Did borders of the land change when the mother-country arrived? Explain.
   1. How did this change affect the natives? Consider whether rival native tribes were forced to live together.
3. Did border changes lead to violence (e.g., between rival tribes) after your country gained independence? If yes, explain.
4. How did the mother-country use and exploit the land?
5. When did industrialization become introduced to your country?
   1. What did this look like (e.g., factory production of certain goods; more efficient ways of farming; a total change in the kinds of jobs; discovery and/or use of energy sources like wood, coal, or gas to produce goods)?
6. How has industrialization impacted the environment (e.g., pollution, deforestation, harm to native plants and animals and drinking water)?
7. Currently, what is the geographic situation regarding:
   1. migration
   2. borders
   3. use of the land’s resources
   4. environmental health

5. What happened socially?

1. How were natives treated during colonization?
   1. Did colonists cooperate with and/or live among natives of the country (e.g., trade agreements, political representatives, segregation)?
   2. Was there slavery?
   3. Was there an *encomienda,* or tribute, system in place?
   4. How was Christianity introduced to the natives (e.g., peacefully, forcefully)?
   5. What about access to education and/or jobs?
2. Was there a class system established to differentiate between natives and colonists?
   1. If so, how did that impact life politically, socially, economically? Consider income inequality, gender inequality, racial, cultural, or religious inequality during colonization.
   2. After your country gained independence, did immigrants from the mother-country stay there and maintain a hold on power and/or status? Did a similar class system exist just after independence? How did this affect the status of the natives? Consider political rights, economic status, access to education and good-paying jobs.
   3. Does a similar class system exist today? How does that affect people? Consider political rights, economic status, access to education and good-paying jobs.
3. How did natives respond to the conquest or occupation of their land (i.e., violently, grudgingly, peacefully, with a treaty)? Why did they respond this way? Answer for each time period:
   1. At the beginning of conquest
   2. During the middle of occupation of your country
   3. Toward the end of colonization (toward independence)

6. Explain the independence movement in your country.

1. What were the motivations behind the movement for independence?
2. How was it achieved? Why did the mother-country eventually leave?
3. What kind of country was set-up in its place (PEGS)? Gather information from previous research under PEGS subtopics to understand the complete picture of your country after independence.

7. What are the long-term impacts of colonization in your country (PEGS)?

1. How is what has happened since independence related to colonization?
2. What are some struggles in *democracy* and *human rights* as it relates to the long-term impacts of colonization?

8. Judge whether specific events and impacts of colonization were positive, negative or both. If both, do the positives outweigh the negatives, or vice versa?

1. Support your opinion with at least 3 pieces of evidence (examples) from your country’s colonial and post-colonial experiences.