

Decolonization in the Third World: Challenges, Hopes and Limitations

Written by Ivana
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Decolonization in the Third World: Challenges, Hopes and Limitations Mesto: Sherbrooke ,
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Opšte informacije:

In Africa, Latin America and Asia, the end of European colonial domination is a period of particular interest as it leads, almost invariably, to a new era characterized by uncertainty and the unknown. Upon achieving independence, previously colonized countries are often confronted with unprecedented cultural, ideological and political upheaval. This is usually indicative of an effort to exorcise the country's colonial heritage, to rebuild the nation, and to look for ways and means of renewing the culture and social and economic development. The management of independence in the new Third World countries deals not only with which ideological model is best for the development of the nation, but also with establishing proactive socio-cultural, educational and economic policies. These policies are meant to build or re-build societies and nation-states, and to re-establish national identity, as well as combat the inequality and economic under-development inherent to colonialism. However, it would seem that despite important changes and significant results, postcolonial policies must contend with a number of limitations due, in part, to the persistence of prior dependence, to the nature of the political regimes in place and to new forms of economic dependence.

In consideration of the fiftieth anniversary of the decolonization of several African countries, the Lucienne-Cnockaert Research Chair in Modern History of European and Africa will be holding a conference entitled "Decolonization in the Third World: Challenges, Hopes and Limitations" on 17-18 November 2011. This conference will be an opportunity to study the magnitude and complexity of the responsibilities and challenges, and the various administrative paths chosen by the post-colonial societies of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The aim of this conference is first and foremost to examine the objectives and challenges of cultural, educational and economic reforms in the Third World after attaining independence. Researchers will be invited to examine the nature of interracial and interreligious relations, as well as the role of minority groups and demographically diverse populations (women, youth, ethnic groups, descendents of colonizers, regional groups, etc.) in the process of identity-building and socio-economic development within the new nation-states. A critical evaluation of the various reforms undertaken in postcolonial societies will allow researchers to take note of their limitations and their success, however limited the latter may appear to be. Finally, particular attention will be given to the various types of relations established between Third World countries and the Western world as a whole, and with international organizations and institutions such as UNESCO, the UN, the IMF, the Francophonie and the Commonwealth.

Način konkurisanja:

We welcome conference proposals touching upon the following themes:

- Cultural and economic aspects of colonialism
- Discourses and intellectual trajectories of the leaders of independence movements
- The meaning of national symbols: national anthems, mottos and flags
- The nature of the postcolonial State and the ideologies of independence
- Cultural policies established in order to restore a national identity
- Relationships between native populations and the descendents of colonizers
- Policies respecting women and/or minorities
- Studies of particular concepts or ideologies (pan-Africanism, pan-Asianism, non-alignment, post-colonialism, socialism, etc.)
- Management of regional, ethnic and religious diversity
- Economic planning and development
- Neo-colonialism and international relationships between North and South
- International relationships amongst the South
- Interventions of the IMF and the World Bank: challenges and results
- Memories of independence

Researchers, professors and students interested in participating in this conference are invited to send proposals approximately 300 words in length before 1 March 2011.

Registration fees for this conference are \$150 CAD. Travel and accommodation expenses may be reimbursed depending on funding received from granting agencies.

Please send proposals along with a brief CV by email to Professor Patrick Dramé: patrick.drame@usherbrooke.ca

patrick.drame@usherbrooke.ca

<http://www.pages.usherbrooke.ca/lucienne-cnockaert/>

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