

Decolonial Europe Collective Manifesto

The Decolonial Europe Collective is a collective of people united by the common mission of fighting imperialism and racial capitalism in all its forms, in Europe and the world. We take aim at the roots of colonialism that dominate European history, and manifestations of neo-colonialism today, including the EU, and from our privileged position in Europe use our power to fight both.

Through colonial violence, Western European states and corporations have acquired economic wealth and political power that continues to subjugate billions around the world under an imperialist, white supremacist capitalist patriarchy.¹ The creation and development of the European Union is no exception to Europe's colonial history.² The EU extracts a deadly cost from formerly colonised peoples and lands, as well as indigenous communities and other states in Europe.

Today, thanks to powerful actors in the imperial core and their accomplices around the world, neo-colonialism remains alive and well.

Since 7 October 2023, we have entered a new phase in the global history of imperialist white supremacist capitalist cisheteropatriarchy and the resistance to it. The escalation of Israel's colonial violence and century-long genocide in response to resistance has sharpened mainstream understandings of imperialism and racial capitalism. Like other uprisings before it, it has laid bare the military and political violence and racist double standards that are used to uphold imperialism and white supremacy. Under the imperial order, when people of colour exercise power or agency, no longer playing by the rules of acceptability of the white (wo)man, they are described and treated as 'terrorists', while only the coloniser's horrific violence is legitimate 'self-defense'.

The hypocritical reality of colonial violence, which has always been clear to the global majority, is now also glaringly obvious for those in Europe. As "the old world is dying"³, Western imperialism maintains itself by its increased use of violence abroad and fascism at home.

The only way out is through solidarity and resistance, in defiance of repression, borders and manufactured division.

We echo and insist that "decolonisation is not a metaphor".⁴ Dismantling the dominant power system requires education and collective action. It requires transnational and intersectional solidarity within and beyond 'Europe'.

That is why we have come together to create the Decolonial Europe Collective.

Together, we:

¹ The term 'imperialist white supremacist capitalist patriarchy' was first coined by bell hooks.

² As pointed out by Peo Hansen and Stefan Jonsson, "the unification of Europe and a unified European effort to colonise Africa were two processes that presupposed one another. Africa could be developed only by Europe, and Europe could develop its fullest potential only through Africa."

³ Antonio Gramsci

⁴ Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang

- Recognise that Europe's material richness is only due to the violent extraction, expropriation and exploitation of other parts of the world - past and present;
- Recognise that the modern system of international debt reproduces and enables colonial extraction and that debt cancellation is a necessary step to breaking that system;
- Understand the need for action to facilitate the repair of colonial crimes, including by returning stolen land and artefacts, financial and other forms of reparations, and contributing to the restoration of sovereignty of colonised peoples;
- Fight the many forms of European neo-colonialism, including European colonial possessions in the form of 'overseas territories', the dispossession of indigenous peoples in Europe itself, suppression of anti-capitalist, independence and democratic political movements in other countries, and the colonial nature of European and EU policy on trade, equality, climate, migration, security, and development;
- Fight the imperialist repression of grassroots, anti-capitalist independence movements wherever such repression is found;
- Fight the repression, marginalisation and dispossession of indigenous peoples, racialised communities, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, LGBTQIA+ communities, women*, the working class, functionally othered...

As a collective, we aim to:

- Amplify the voices of anti/decolonial activists and organisations;
- Connect anti/decolonial/southern/Majority World activists and organisations in Europe and beyond;
- Facilitate political education on Europe's colonial past and present;
- Build an active coalition that takes concrete actions based on solidarity and resistance.

We stand in solidarity with peoples over states, power and profit.

Towards a world where many worlds fit!⁵

Glossary (to be defined once the collective is launched):

What do we mean by anti/decolonial and southern/Majority World?

What do we mean by imperial core?

What do we mean by white supremacy?

What do we mean by cisheteropatriarchy?

What do we mean by LGBTQIA+? (Includes 2SLGBTQIA)

What do we mean by racialised?

What do we mean by women*?

What do we mean by the working class? (Includes sex workers)

What do we mean by indigenous peoples?

⁵ Zapatista slogan