

PSCI 3510
Terrorism and
Political Violence
November 5, 2018



Jim Butterfield
Quynh Mai
jimbutterfield.org/3510.html

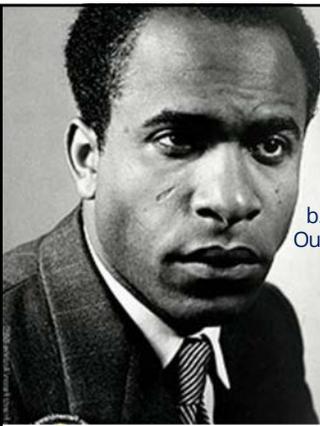


Some Key Events (Fanon and de Gramont)

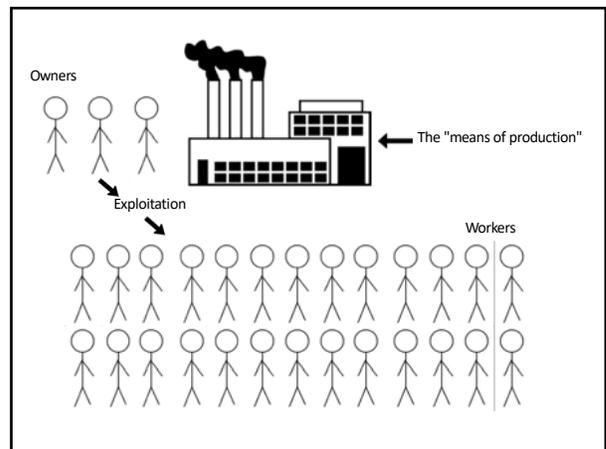
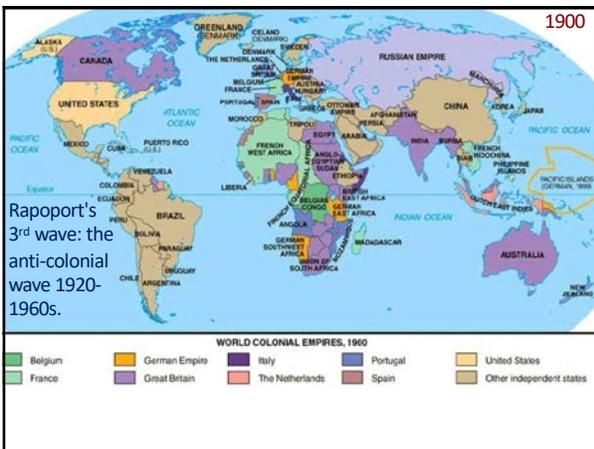
- Algerian War of Independence (from France): 1954-1962.
- Vietnamese Declaration of Independence (from France and Japan): September 2, 1945.
- Battle of Dien Bien Phu: March to May 1954.
- French recognition of Vietnamese independence: June 4, 1954.
 - The country split into northern and southern parts until 1975.
- Brazilian military junta: 1964-1985.

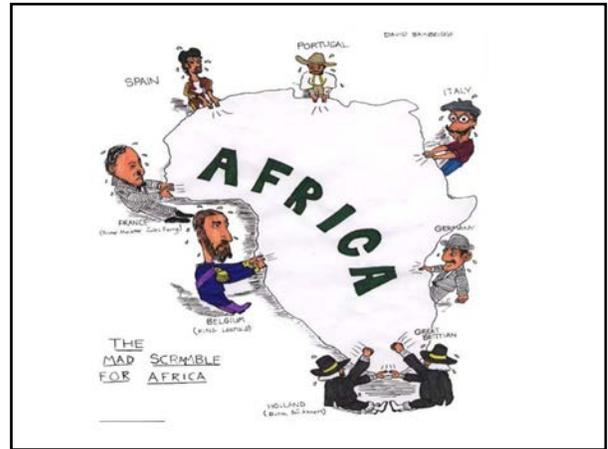
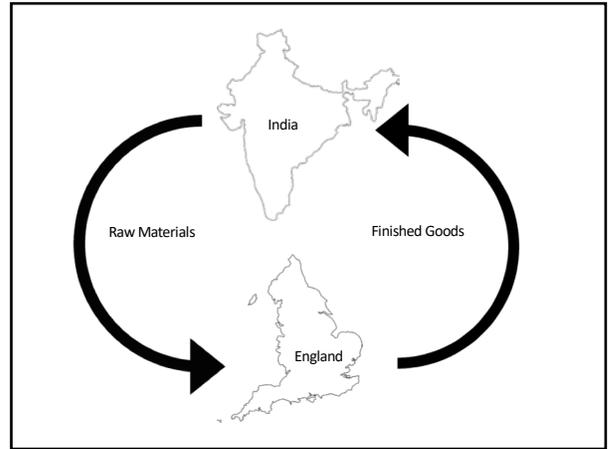
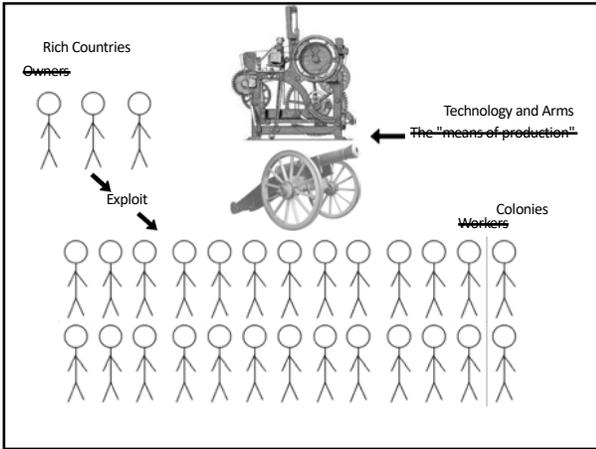
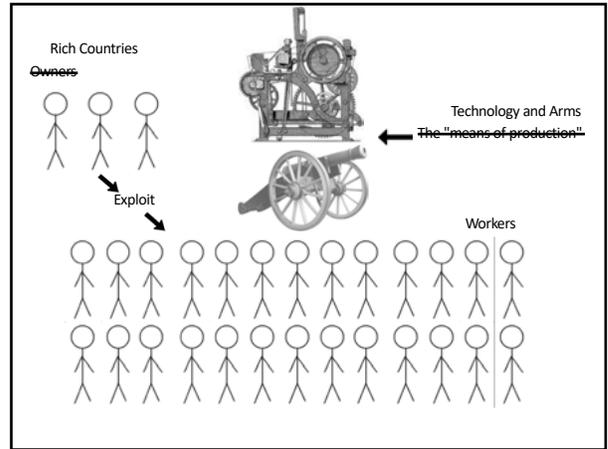
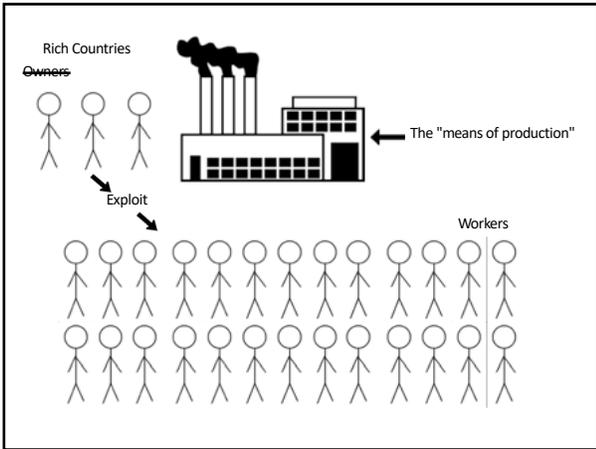


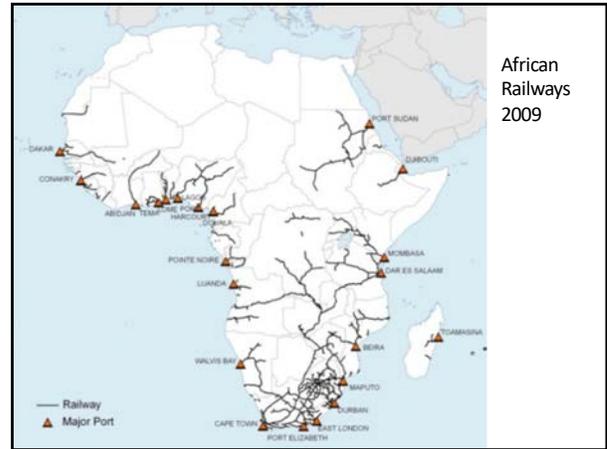
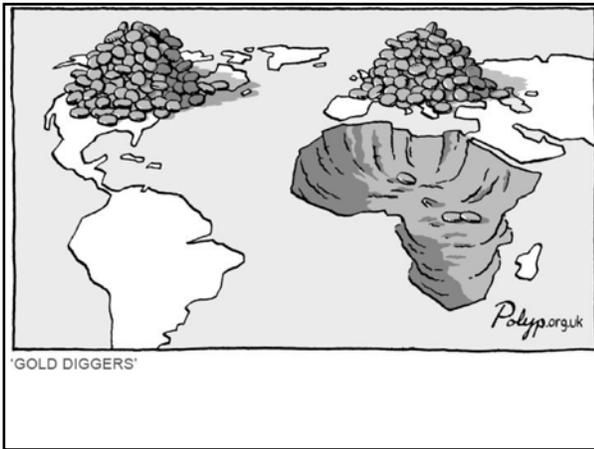
Ho Chi Minh 1946



Frantz Fanon, 1925-1961
Psychiatrist
b. Martinique (French colony)
Our reading is an excerpt from
The Wretched of the Earth







Fanon: The Psychology of Domination

- "European opulence is literally scandalous, for it has been founded on slavery, it has been nourished with the blood of slaves and it comes directly from the soil and from the subsoil of that under-developed world. The well-being and the progress of Europe have been built up with the sweat and the dead bodies of Negroes, Arabs, Indians and the yellow races."



Fanon: The Psychology of Domination

- "In capitalist societies the educational system, whether lay or clerical, the structure of moral reflexes handed down from father to son, the exemplary honesty of workers who are given a medal after fifty years of good and loyal service, and the affection which springs from harmonious relations and good behavior – all these aesthetic expressions of respect for the established order serve to create around the exploited person an atmosphere of submission and of inhibition which lightens the task of policing considerably. In the capitalist countries a multitude of moral teachers, counselors and 'bewilderers' separate the exploited from those in power."



Fanon: The Psychology of Domination

- "In the colonial countries... the policeman and the soldier, by their immediate presence and their frequent and direct action maintain contact with the native and advise him by means of rifle-butts and napalm not to budge."



Fanon: The Psychology of Domination

- "Decolonization is always a violent phenomenon."
- "At the level of individuals, violence is a cleansing force. It frees the native from his inferiority complex and from his despair and inaction; it makes him fearless and restores his self-respect."
- "The 'thing' which has been colonized becomes man during the same process by which it frees itself."



Ladislav Dowbor (de Gramont article)

- "I felt it was absurd to hold a pacifist position and encourage the campesinos to organize,' [Dowbor] says, 'for once organized, and at the first test, the army would fire on them. Objectively, by working as a pacifist, one provokes violence. And if one provokes violence, one must assume it.'"



Ladislav Dowbor (de Gramont article)

"One of his interrogators said:

'You steal money from the banks; why don't you get it from the crooked politicians instead?'

'Why do you torture prisoners?' Dowbor asked by way of a reply.

'If we don't torture you, you won't talk,' the interrogator said.

'What can we do?'

'That is up to you. When a regime is forced to stay in power by such means, it has no real validity. For each one of us you torture you create 10 kamikazes and then you will weep about violence in Brazil.'"

Ladislav Dowbor (de Gramont article)

"The terrible thing is that they [police investigators] become accustomed to torture. Decent young men from good families who have joined the police from the highest motives are told to torture suspects. The first time they vomit in disgust, and then they get used to it."



Is Violence Ever Justified?

- When attacked by another country?
- When the state commits terrorism against its own people?
- To address systemic violence?



Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him.

