10 Ways African Colonialism Exists Today

Colonialism is often compartmentalized in history classes and in popular cultural as being a period of European conquest that took place from 1885 -1960. In reality, colonialism did not end with the handing over of government to newly established leadership in the mid-20th century. The imperialism that led to and helped justify the horrors of colonialism remains well intact, through many embedded cultural, economic and legal means. Here are 10 ways in which colonialism impacts the world today.

Schools around the world continue to be run on the 'western' education model, based on the mid-19th century English factories (rows, bells, punishment, hours, leader at front).

Western **time keeping** methods have become normalized and used as the default timekeeping method in international business vs. timekeeping based on the sun (e.g. Swahili time in East Africa where hours coordinate with sunrise & sunset).

Governing systems around the world, but especially in Africa, mimic the systems used and forced upon them by 'Western' powers like USA, Russia, England.

Music, including Jazz, crossed the Atlantic ocean to America, in part due to colonialism. Today, some artists return capitalize on the romanticized colonial image of Africa.

Driving on the same side of road that colonizers is a norm (e.g. British East Africa, Indian subcontinent and UK).

Most everybody speaks (or is expected to speak) **English** aka linguistic imperialism

Many **cities** in Africa, especially African cities on the ocean, were founded by foreigners to the continent extracting people and resources from Africa (e.g. Cape Town, Zanzibar, Dakar, Mombasa)

National Parks are direct result of colonizers saving land for them to hunt game, and continue to cause evictions for thousands of people living inside their borders today.

Many **national borders** were drawn by colonizers (e.g. Belgian Congo became DR Congo)

Many **currencies** around the world mimic European currency. As many as 14 francophone countries use their own version of the French Franc, while many countries that were English colonies use versions of the English pound.

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