

Postcolonial Critique of Globalization

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For more than 20 years, protest movements worldwide have been drawing attention to the fatal effects of neoliberal globalization. Often referred to as a critique of globalization, these protests have been articulated particularly in resistance to institutions of the global political economy such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization. Major events such as the Summit-protests in Seattle (1999), Prague (2000), Genoa (2001) or the first World Social Forum in Porto Alegre (2001) are still anchored in the collective memory of many activists.

The criticized international organizations have carried out a large number of reforms in response to the protests, ranging from opening up to NGOs to creating accountability mechanisms for those affected by so-called development projects. While academic debate has accompanied these institutional reforms, critical work on the connection between the global protest movement and institutional reforms is rare. Postcolonial perspectives, in particular, are largely absent. This is all the more surprising since the postcolonial critique of North-South relations has been on the rise since the early 1990s, parallel to the global protest movement. With this Issue, we thus seek to critically complement the state of political science research on the global protest movement and institutional reform processes, e.g. by focusing on colonial continuities and analysing them by means of postcolonial concepts such as “othering” and subaltern representation. Furthermore, we would like to invite (self-)critical reflection on North-South asymmetries within the global protest movement.

We welcome contributions that address the following questions:

- What have the alter-globalization protests achieved so far? Which of their goals have remained unachieved? Which actors and social groups are involved in alter-globalization protests and where? How are the protests perceived locally, nationally and internationally?
- How “global” or how “white” were (are) the protest movements? Which North-South asymmetries exist within the movements and how are they negotiated?
- Whose demands and criticisms were included in reforms and which ones were not? What influence do the implemented reforms have on current policies and their actual implementation?
- What role do processes of co-optation, appropriation, and silencing of and within movements play? How do activists and movements deal with this?
- What conceptual possibilities and challenges arise from a postcolonial perspective on globalization critique?

Articles can be submitted in English, French and Spanish. The Submission deadline for articles is on 10. August 2020.

Manuscripts, questions on possible contributions and any other questions should be sent to info@zeitschrift-peripherie.de. Further information for authors can be downloaded from our website.