

# Small States in the Shadow of Empire (Part 1)

**Steve L. Monroe**

YSS4274



Source: ThoughtCo

Small states are vulnerable to larger states' imperial plans.

This week we will focus on the forces that *drive* larger states' imperial ambitions. And how these forces impact smaller states.

# This Week

- Part 1: Empires of the past (today)
- Part 2: Empires of the present (Friday)

# Seminar Objectives: To Discuss

- What is an empire? And how do they emerge?
- Discussion: Reluctant empires? And (how) does this reluctance affect colonized states?
- Deep Dive: Imperial Capitalism's economic impact in Fiji

# Seminar Objectives: To Discuss

- What is an empire? And how do they emerge? (**Prof. Monroe**)
- Discussion: Reluctant empires? And (how) does this reluctance affect colonized states? (**Immerwahr, Herbst**)
- Deep Dive: Imperial Capitalism's economic impact in Fiji (**Knapman**)

# Outline of Seminar

- 1 Announcements
- 2 What is an empire? And why empire?
- 3 Reluctant empires?
- 4 Deep Dive: Capitalism's Economic Impact in Colonial Fiji
- 5 Next Seminar: To Dos



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# Research Paper: Due April 30th

- Independent academic research about one (or many) small states
- Can use secondary sources
- Word Count: 6000
- Students are encouraged to discuss their paper with Prof. Monroe

# No Class Next Thursday

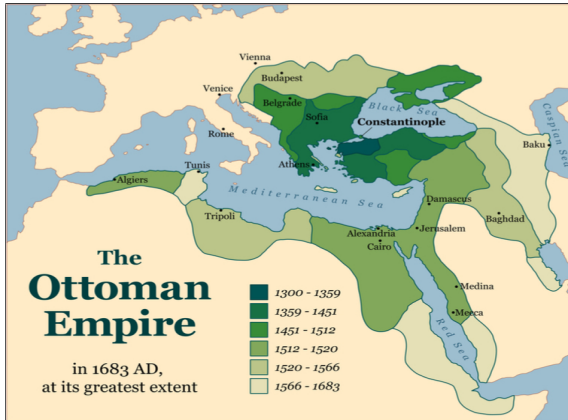
- Happy Wellness Day!

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- 2 **What is an empire? And why empire?**
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# Definition: Empire

- “Political units made up of several territories and peoples, typically created by conquest and divided between a dominant center and subordinate peripheries (Howe 2002).”



# Examples

- Roman
- Ottoman
- British
- French
- Soviet Union
- United States

# Why empire?



# Drivers of Empire

- Political
- Ideological
- Economic

# Drivers of Empire

- **Political**
- Ideological
- Economic



Source: The Dhaka Carrier

# Thucydides Trap

“It was the rise of Athens, and the fear that this inspired in Sparta, that made war inevitable.” - Thucydides (via Graham Allison)

# Drivers of Empire

- Political
- Ideological
- Economic

# Drivers of Empire

- Political
- **Ideological**
- Economic

# White Man's Burden



Source: MIT

# Manifest Destiny



Source: American Progress by John Gast (1872)



# Manifest Destiny

EXCERPT

## The Unlikely Origins of Russia's Manifest Destiny

How an obscure academic and a marginalized philosopher captured the minds of the Kremlin and helped forge the new Russian nationalism.

By Charles Clover



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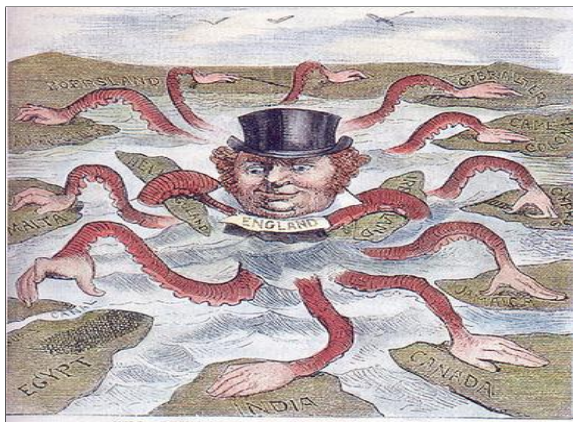
Source: Foreign Policy (2016)

# Drivers of Empire

- Political
- Ideological
- Economic

# Drivers of Empire

- Political
- Ideological
- **Economic**



Source: MIT

# Drivers of Empire

- Political
- Ideological
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# Warm Up

- Both Immerwahr and Herbst present leaders of empires as being reluctant to expand their territorial rule. Why?

# Compare and Contrast

- US expansion into the Pacific and the Caribbean vs. Europe's Scramble for Africa



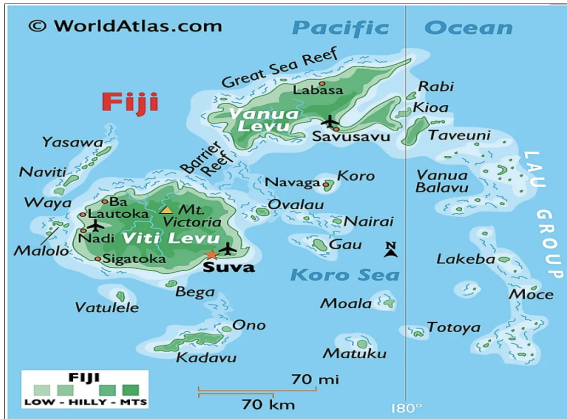
- What are the implications of the US and Europe's contrasting imperial motivations for their colonized subjects?

# Compare and Contrast

- Pre-colonial vs. colonial rule over African territory

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Source: MIT

# Warm up

How does Knapman define (under)development?

# Underdevelopment

“The blocking of peripheral countries’ development - blocking that rises out of their dependency and is measured by their low income levels relative to income levels in core capitalist economies (80).”

# Underdevelopment Theory

‘African and Asian societies were developing independently until they were taken over....by capitalist powers (Rodney 81).’

# Argument

Knapman argues that “Underdevelopment Theory” does a mixed job explaining development in Fiji. Why? What evidence does he use?



# Argument

How did capitalism imperialism impact Fiji's underdevelopment?

# Imperial Capitalism and Underdevelopment

- Dependency
- Income

# Argument

According to Knapman, in what ways did capitalism imperialism promote Fiji's development?

# ChatGPT Check In

What has been the developmental impact of colonialism in Fiji?

# Reflection

Compare and contrast the Knapman reading from Herbst and Immerwahr readings.

# Reflection (II)

Under what conditions can newly independent small states profit from global capitalism?

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# Next Seminar (April 1st)

- Small States in the Shadow of Empire (Part 2)
  - ▶ Small states' perspectives (Baruah, Paul)
  - ▶ Two newspaper articles about China's expansion into the Pacific (see Canvas)
  - ▶ Ports of Contention Case Study: China, US and Small Island States

Have a great week!