

Week 4 Seminar

Human security and how it relates to colonialism, identity and natural resource exploitation.

Human Security

- 'Human Security' with the publication of the United Nations Development Program Human Development Report in 1994.
- Linked to University Declaration of Human Rights
- Concerns the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from fear and want.
- Safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease and repression
- Protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in patterns of daily life – whether in jobs, in homes or in communities

Post-colonial approaches to human security

Concerned with how the impact of colonialism has shaped 'human security' today.

- 1) Focus on (threats to) human security in colonial and postcolonial states
- 2) Focus on the colonality of, or colonial thought supporting, hegemonic notions of 'human security' itself.

Starting points for further reading: Shani 2017, Hanafi 2007, Mabe 2007)

1) Threats to human security in colonial or post-colonial states: focus on natural resources

- There are numerous threats. Focusing on natural resources ties into our other module topics well (Climate Change, Environment, Energy, Migration)
- Nkrumah 1965 – neocolonialism *is* imperialism. Economic imperialism.
- Plunder of the natural resources of the former economies makes it impossible for post-colonial states to ensure the human security of their citizens
- War on Want 2016 – 101 LSE-listed companies control \$1trillion Africa's natural resources. This was the case under formal colonialism and it is *still* the case today.

2) Are hegemonic conceptions of 'human security' Eurocentric?

- The individual human is the referent of human security. Hanafi 2007 – should it be the community? Should it include self-determination?
- Human security is traditionally secularized. Should we question this? What role is there for faith and spirituality in human security (Hanafi 2007, Mabe 2007)? What about the ontological (see Shani 2017)?
- Ontological approaches to human security link us back to post-colonial approaches, and to identity. To achieve human security, you must first have ontological security. You must have the right to exist.
- (Settler) colonialism aims to eliminate the indigenous population through violence, eugenics etc., but also culturally – eliminating the indigenous' population's very identity. (Veracini 2011)

Activity 1

- Summarise the reading you did (either Hanafi 2007 or Mabe 2007 hopefully) for the other members of your subgroup
- What did you find problematic about these readings, if anything?
- What might be useful in these readings for your essay assignment, if anything?
- With regards to the 'Identity' chapter in the Fierke textbook, did you come across any methodological tools that might be useful for you?

Activity 2

- The Western Sahara conflict is perceived to affect the ‘security’ of states well beyond just Morocco and Western Sahara. E.g. Spain and migration
- Listen to Asria Taleb’s podcast to hear more about the interests and roles of other states in the Western Sahara conflict.
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4ttwIRpLOjdfGuTP8LCrRY>

- Listen out for:

Why Bastagli resigned from this post after only one year

Which countries block the UN from taking action and why?

Bastagli describes Western Sahara as “a textbook case in conflict prevention.” What do you think he means?

Why are China and Russia poor allies for Western Sahara, according to Bastagli?

Activity 3

- How do Moroccan state settler colonial policies repress Saharawi identity markers? What does this mean for the human security of Saharawis living in occupied Western Sahara?
- Lets analyse the Cornell Law School and Caen University report



Activity 4: Corporate Accountability in Western Sahara. Thinking about Advocacy

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25. The foregoing legal principles established in the practice of States and the United Nations pertain to economic activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories, in general, and mineral resource exploitation, in particular. It must be recognized, however, that in the present case, the contracts for oil reconnaissance and evaluation do not entail exploitation or the physical removal of the mineral resources, and no benefits have as of yet accrued. The conclusion is, therefore, that, while the specific contracts which are the subject of the Security Council's request are not in themselves illegal, if further exploration and exploitation activities were to proceed in disregard of the interests and wishes of the people of Western Sahara, they would be in violation of the principles of international law applicable to mineral resource activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(Signed) Hans Corell
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
The Legal Counsel

How to you persuade a company to leave occupied Western Sahara? Thinking about advocacy.

Imagine it's 2015 and Cairn Energy are drilling for oil in occupied Western Sahara in partnership with USA company Kosmos Energy and the Moroccan King's energy company ONHYM. How would you try to hold them to account?

Drafting an advocacy plan

- **Who would you contact?** (E.g. Cairn Energy CEO? Cairn's major shareholders? Politicians local to Cairn's headquarters? Politicians local to Cairn's global offices? Your own local politicians? Certain political parties? Which ones might be interested? The media? Which media?)
- **In what order would you contact these potential stakeholders?** Or all at once?
- **Which arguments would be most effective for which stakeholders?** (E.g. is your local MP a champion for women's rights? the Palestinian cause? Green issues? How might you use this to your advantage?)
- **Would you also do a public-facing campaign?** At what stage (e.g. after giving Cairn a chance to respond? After giving a shareholders a chance to raise their concerns with Cairn? Straight away?)? How would you encourage the media to cover this unknown issue? How might you use social media? The Student Union?

What are your strongest arguments? Do they vary depending on the stakeholder?

- The legal perspective?
- The human rights situation? Might the specific abuse of women be important for some stakeholders?
- Undermining the UN peace process?
- The undermining of the principle of self-determination?
- A mixture of arguments?

How would you contact your stakeholder? What would your key arguments be?

1

Group 1 stakeholder: Joanna Cherry QC, MP for Edinburgh South West (Cairn Energy's constituency rep.), **SNP**.

Check out her webpage and/or Twitter feed to get a sense of her interests.

2

Group 2 stakeholder: Iain Buckle and Euan McNeil, managers of the Ethical Fund at AEGON, one of Cairn Energy's biggest shareholders. See Blackboard for a helpful document.

3

Group 3 stakeholder: Chi Onwurah, MP for Newcastle Central (our constituency rep.). Check out the 'about me' section on her webpage.