

Vocabulary

Annexation | adding or appropriating a subordinate territory to a larger nation

Allyship | a dominant or majority group that is working towards ending oppression by supporting and advocating for those in marginalized and oppressed groups.

Capitalism | an economic and political system in which industry and trade are based on a “free market” and largely controlled by private companies instead of the government. Within Ethnic Studies, scholars are often very critical of the system of capitalism as research has shown that Native people and people of color are disproportionately exploited within the system. In a capitalist economy, surplus value (profit) is generated from human labor and everything is commodified.

Civilize | to develop and transform people of one country or culture and have them assimilate into or resemble an occupying country or culture

Colonialism | a practice of domination whereby one country seizes control over another country or territory and its people via force, exploitation, and/or political control

Empire | a group of nations, states or territories, or a major political unit that is controlled by a single government, leader, or military dominion. Within the field of Ethnic Studies, scholars often study the implications of Western empires and expansion on people of color globally.

Imperialism | the extension of one nation’s dominance, power, or rule over another via policy, ideology, influence (social, economic, religious, etc.), or military

Infantilize | to treat someone or people as a child or children, to deny their maturity or development

Occupation | actions taken to control another country, state, or place

Racialization | the processes of ascribing ethnic or racial identities to a relationship, social practice, or group that did not identify itself as such

Sovereignty | authority to govern itself

War | armed conflict between nations