John XXIII to Pope Francis: Ideological Colonization

(The list below is not exhaustive)

JOHN XXIII

There is also a further temptation **which the economically developed nations must resist: that of giving technical and financial aid with a view to gaining control over the political situation in the poorer countries**, and furthering their ownplans for world domination. Let us be quite clear on this point. A nation that acted from these motives would in fact be introducing **a new form of colonialism**—cleverly disguised, no doubt, but actually reflecting that older, outdated type from which many nations have recently emerged. Such action would, moreover, have harmful impact on international relations, and constitute a menace to world peace. *See John XXIII, Mater et Magistra, May 15, 1961, nos. 171-172.*

PAUL VI:

It is certainly all right to maintain bilateral and multilateral agreements. Through such agreements, ties of dependence and feelings of jealousy—holdovers from the era of colonialism —give way to friendly relationships of true solidarity that are based on juridical and political equality. But such agreements would be free of all suspicion if they were integrated into an overall policy of worldwide collaboration. The member nations, who benefit from these agreements, would have less reason for fear or mistrust. **They would not have to worry that financial or technical assistance was being used as a cover for some new form of colonialism that would threaten their civil liberty, exert economic pressure on them, or create a new power group with controlling influence.** *See Paul VI, Populorum Progressio, March 26, 1967, no. 52.*

JOHN PAUL II:

Countries which have recently achieved independence, and which are trying to establish a cultural and political identity of their own, and need effective and impartial aid from all the richer and more developed countries, find themselves involved in, and sometimes overwhelmed by, ideological conflicts, which inevitably create internal divisions, to the extent in some cases of provoking full civil war. **This is also because investments and aid for development are often diverted from their proper purpose and used to sustain conflicts, apart from and in opposition to the interests of the countries which ought to benefit from them**. Many of these countries are becoming more and more aware of the danger of falling victim to a form of neocolonialism and are trying to escape from it. *See John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, December 30, 1987, no. 21.*

**Globalization must not be a new version of colonialism**. It must respect the diversity of cultures which, within the universal harmony of peoples, are life’s interpretive keys. In particular, it must not deprive the poor of what remains most precious to them, including their religious beliefs and practices, since genuine religious convictions are the clearest manifestation of human freedom. *See John Paul II, Address to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, April 27, 2001.*

BENEDICT XVI:

Paul VI hoped to see the journey towards autonomy unfold freely and in peace. More than forty years later, we must acknowledge how difficult this journey has been, **both because of new forms of colonialism and continued dependence on old and new foreign powers, and because of grave irresponsibility within the very countries that have achieved independence.** *See Benedict XVI, Caritas in veritatae, June 29, 2009, no. 33 (citing Paul VI, Populorum Progressio).*

Without discussing the genesis of such sickness of the spirit, it is nevertheless indisputable that the so-called **"first" world has sometimes exported and is exporting toxic spiritual refuse which contaminates the peoples of other continents, including in particular the population of Africa. In this sense, colonialism finished at a political level has never really ended**. *See Benedict XVI, Homily, October 4, 2009.*

POPE FRANCIS:

Ideological colonization. I’ll give just one example that I saw myself. Twenty years ago, in 1995, a minister of education asked for a large loan to build schools for the poor. They gave it to her on the condition that in the schools there would be a book for the children of a certain grade level. It was a school book, a well-thought-out book, didactically speaking, in which **gender theory was taught**… *See Pope Francis, In-Flight Press Conference of His Holiness Pope Francis from the Philippines to Rome, January 15, 2015.*

I would like to conclude with this aspect, since behind all this there are ideologies. In Europe, America, Latin America, Africa, and in some countries of Asia, there are genuine forms of ideological colonization taking place. **And one of these - I will call it clearly by its name – is [the ideology of] “gender**”. Today children – children! – are taught in school that everyone can choose his or her sex. Why are they teaching this? Because the books are provided by the persons and institutions that give you money. These forms of ideological colonization are also supported by influential countries. And this terrible! *See Pope Francis, Dialogo del Santo Padre con i Vescovi della Polonia, July 27, 2016.*

**It is true that people in power offer some assistance, but often it comes at a high price. In many poor countries, economic aid provided by some richer countries or international agencies is usually tied to the acceptance of Western views of sexuality, marriage, life or social justice.** This ideological colonization is especially harmful to the young. We also see how a certain kind of advertising teaches young people to be perpetually dissatisfied and contributes to the throwaway culture, in which young people themselves end up being discarded. *See Pope Francis, Christus vivit, March 29, 2019, no. 78.*

…more and more resources have been spent on imposing forms of ideological colonization, especially on poorer countries, and **directly connecting the provision of economic aid to the acceptance of such ideologies**. This has strained debate within international organizations, precluding fruitful exchanges. *See Pope Francis, Address to the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to the Holy See, January 9, 2023*.

Regrettably, in recent decades attempts have been made to introduce new rights that are neither fully consistent with those originally defined nor always acceptable. **They have led to instances of ideological colonization, in which gender theory plays a central role; the latter is extremely dangerous since it cancels differences in its claim to make everyone equal**. These instances of ideological colonization prove injurious and create divisions between states, rather than fostering peace. *See Pope Francis, Address to the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to the Holy See, January 8, 2024.*

COMPENDIUM OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINE

At the international level there are the fluctuation of exchange rates, financial speculation and **economic neo-colonialism**; within individual debtor countries there is corruption, poor administration of public monies or the improper utilization of loans received. *See Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 2005, no. 450.*