



POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE

Presented by:

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Cervignano del Friuli
ANNO SCOLASTICO 2017/2018

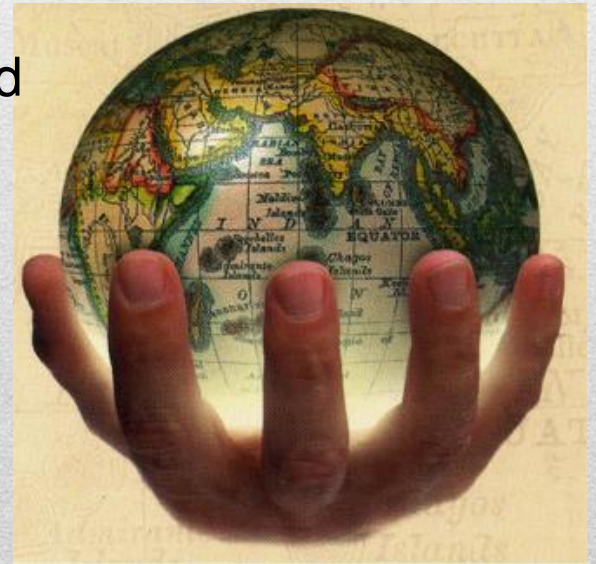
KEY TERMS

- **ALTERITY** → lack of identification, diversity.
 - **DIASPORA** → refers to any people or ethnic population forced or induced to leave their traditional ethnic homelands.
 - **EUROCENTRISM** → the practice of emphasizing European concerns, culture and values disadvantaging the other cultures.
 - **HYBRIDITY** → an important concept in post-colonial theory, it refers to the integration of cultural practices from the colonizing and the colonized cultures.
 - **IMPERIALISM** → the policy of extension of the authority over foreign countries to increase the European power. The term is used by some to describe the policy of a country in maintaining colonies and dominance over distant lands.
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WHAT IS POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE?

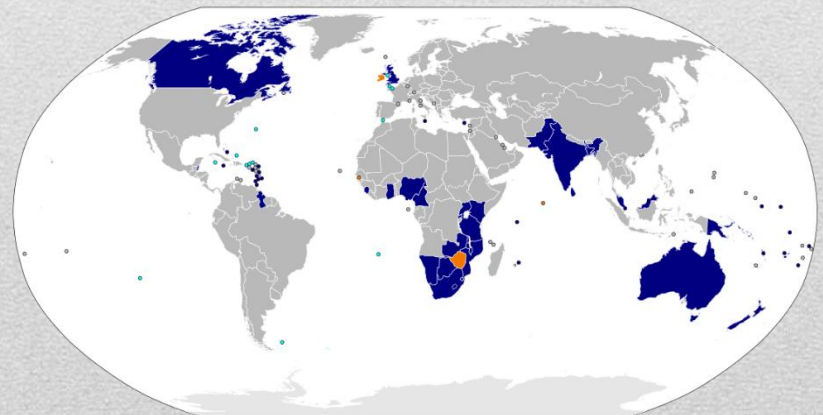
Two considerations :

- all the postcolonial literary production took position against imperialism (political, linguistic and cultural domination)
European colonial powers (Eurocentrism) → colony
- the word “post-colonial” should be understood through the process of “decolonization”, when the colonies obtained their independence from European empires.



WHEN AND WHERE?

- After the period called **decolonization**.
- Postcolonial studies acquired prominence in the 1970s.
- Publication of Edward Said's book → Orientalism (1978)
- Publication of Salman Rushdie's text → The Empire writes back (1982)
- It developed in all the colonies of the British Empire (actually members of the Commonwealth):
 - Africa
 - South America
 - Middle East
 - Ireland
 - India
 - Australia
 - New Zealand
 - Canada

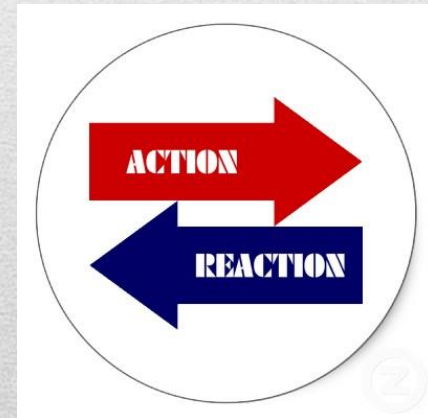


WHY?

- Postcolonialism is used to take position against imperialism and Eurocentrism
 - Political independence did not always lead to cultural independence from political, economic and cultural models
 - British English over local languages, writing culture over oral culture and highbrow culture over folk culture

Reactions :

- There is who suggests a native identity and language must be adopted to get back the lost cultural heritage (minority).
- and who prefers a «transnational» identity and criticizes the post-colonial state (majority)



FEATURES

→ The writers of the colonized countries desire to protest against the former European powers using literature.

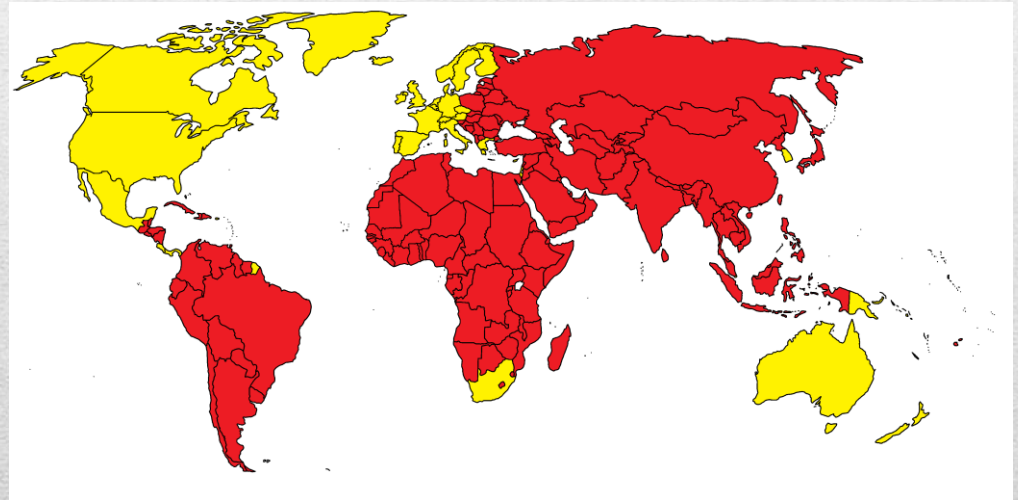
→ They highlight the problems related to Post-colonialism:

- Identity
- Culture and tradition
- Belief and religion
- Language
- Location or sense of displacement



They use English to make their voice audible everywhere and as a provocation because it was the language of the British empire.

- Postcolonial theory is built through the concept of otherness and the concept of resistance/opposition
- The Western concept of the Oriental world is based on prejudices: if the West is ordered, rational, masculine and good, the Orient is chaotic, irrational, feminine, evil. The writers want to change this prospective
- Hybrid → referring to the integration of cultural signs and practices from the colonizing and the colonized cultures



- Writers claimed dignity for themselves and for the communities they belong to.
- They represent a different voice in the debate about contemporary issues, and it is typical for the post-colonial period.



POSTCOLONIAL WRITERS

- CHINUA ACHEBE (THINGS FALL APART, 1958)
 - NADINE GORDIMER (THE CONSERVATIONIST, 1974)
 - SALMAN RUSHDIE (MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN, 1981)
 - TASLIMA NASREEN (OPPOSITION, 1992)
 - MOHSIN HAMID (EXIT WEST, 2017)
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POSTCOLONIAL WRITER: SALMAN RUSHDIE

- Representative of Post-colonial literature
- Use of literature to overturn the point of view about colonialism
- «The Empire writes back»
- Employment of magic realism



THE EMPIRE'S LITERATURE

- DEVELOPED DURING XIX CENTURY (GROWTH OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE)
- FOCUSED ON DEMONSTRATING THE SUPERIORITY OF WHITES



- JUSTIFIED EUROPEAN DOMINATION IN THE WORLD
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COLONIZATION

- DIFFUSION OF BRITISH SYSTEM AND ORGANIZATION OVER THE COLONIES
- IMPOSITION OF THE DOMINATING CULTURE
- APPEARENT REASON: NEED TO CIVILIZE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE



- REAL REASON: NEED TO INCREASE THE EMPIRE'S POWER



COLONIZER LITERATURE: RUDYARD KIPLING

- Focused his studies on India
- Justified the European supremacy using the idea that Western countries were more «developed»



- Promoted the diffusion of civilization for colonized countries



THEMES

- Condition of exile
- Racial conflict
- Eradication of emigrants
- Post-war migration
- Migrations
- Globalization
- Struggle for individual and collective cultural identity and related themes of alienation, unhomeliness , double consciousness and hybridity
- Economic problem



STYLES

- Innovative postmodern narrative styles
- Use of ironical registers to take distance from the serious questions writers are dealing with
- Current use of magic realism
- Characters search identity in the novels

