



# CONCEPT OF THIRD WORLD IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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# THE ORIGIN.....

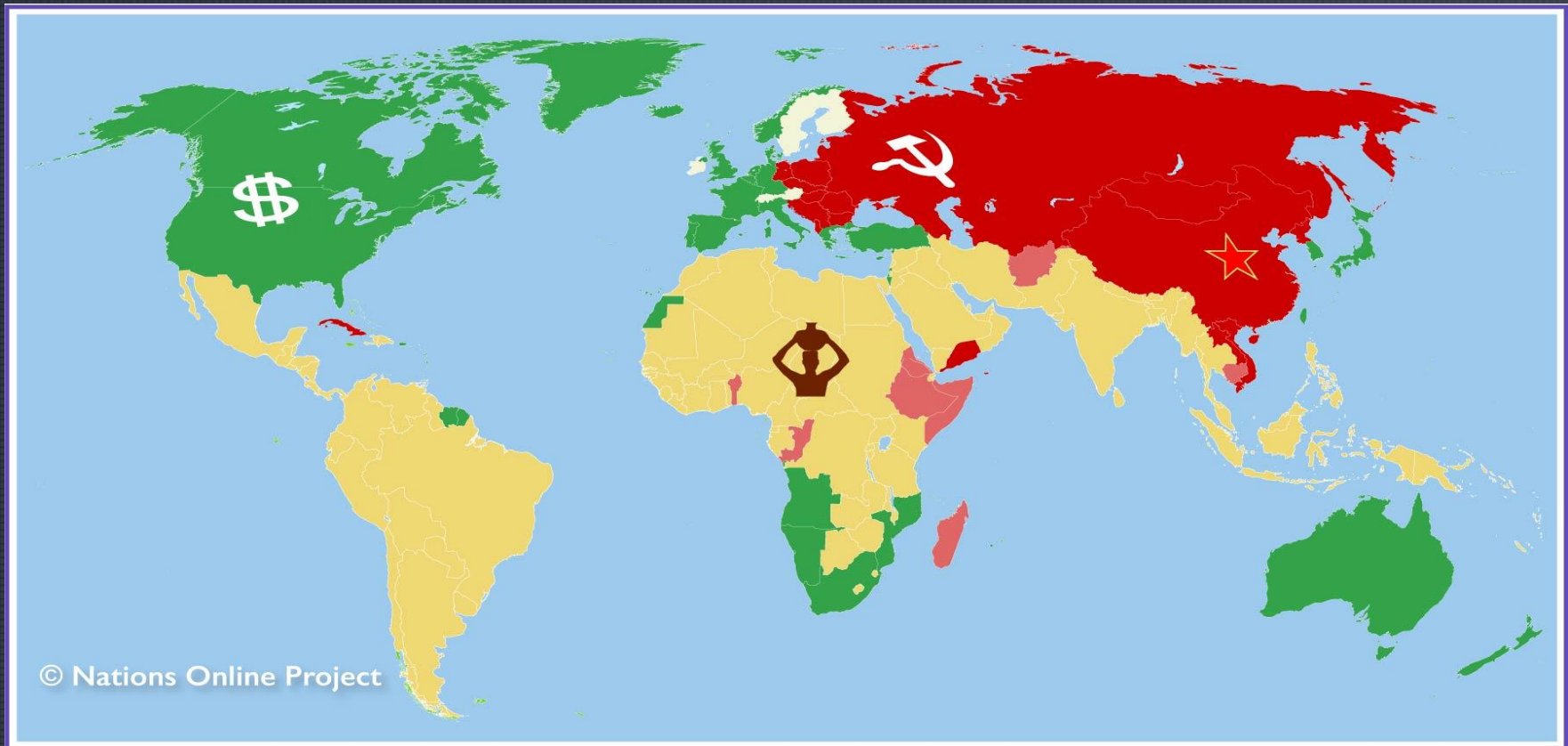
- ❖ Third world is a historically rooted word and emerged after world war-II when Cold War era begun.
- ❖ Due to different reasons, the imperial powers were forced to part with colonialism.
- ❖ It ushered in a great upheaval in and transformation of international political system.

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- 'Third' means there must be a **FIRST** and a **SECOND** world as well.
  - The first world connotes nations of western world usually following liberal-democratic & capitalist mode of ideologies.
  - This block of nations was led by *-USA.*
  - The second world likewise connotes nations that were once led by *-USSR* and believed in socialist/communist ideologies.



- **DECOLONIZATION** made many countries of Asia, Africa and other parts of globe Independent and sovereign.
- These countries were loosely called the **THIRD WORLD**
- *Marten Kaplan* said emergence of the third world has made international political system a ***loose bipolar system***

# FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD WORLD.



The map shows the countries of the US aligned countries of the **First World** (in green), the **Communist states** (in red), the **Third World** (in yellow). European neutral states (in white).

# IDEOLOGICAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE THIRD WORLD

- The term third world was first used in 1952 by French demographer Alfred Sauvy.
- The third world countries wanted to have friendly relations as well as maintain equidistance with both blocs.
- By joining blocs, they did want to jeopardize their independence and developmental priorities.



# JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: A LEADER OF THIRD WORLD



**Jawaharlal Nehru** who synthesized the *LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC VALUES* of the west as well as the *AUTOMATIC INDUSTRIALIZATION* of the Soviet Union, played a key role in the rise of the third world as a political group.

# TRANS/INTER- CONTINENTAL SOLIDARITY

- Efforts for forging unity among Asians and Africans started early in 1947 and in March the same year on suggestion of Nehru a conference was held at New Delhi.
- Here ,Nehru's supported the cause of **INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE**—which soon become a fact— marked in his own words “a turning point in history” of countries of the Third World.



# IDEOLOGICAL AGENDA

- Nehru said “It means new alignments and a new balance of power if not now, then in the near future.”
- He added: “We do not want to form a new bloc but inevitably the countries of Asia will come closer together and India will play a leading part in this.”

# BANDUNG CONFERENCE

- An Afro-Asian conference was held in April, 1955, in which representatives from twenty-nine governments of Asian and African nations gathered in Bandung, Indonesia.
- They discussed global peace and the role of the Third World in containment of the cold war, economic development, and decolonization.

# THE ASIAN-AFRICAN (BANDUNG) CONFERENCE - 1955

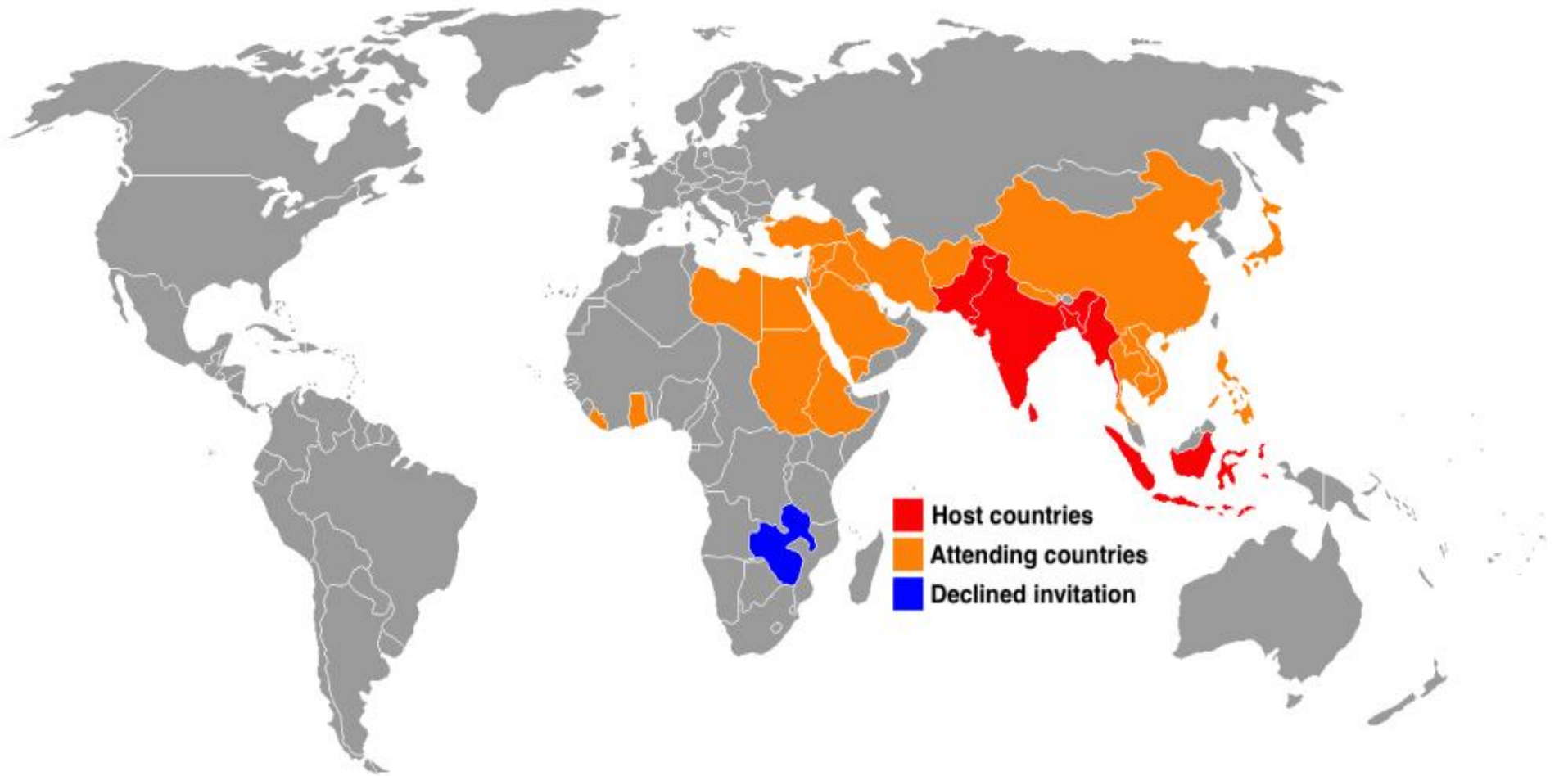



Image source: <https://www.blackpast.org/>



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- The governments of Burma, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka co-sponsored the Bandung Conference.
  - They brought together an additional twenty-four nations from Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

# CORE PRINCIPLES

*THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE  
BANDUNG CONFERENCE WERE*


**Political Self-determination,**

**Mutual Respect for  
Sovereignty,**


**Non-aggression,**

**Non-interference In  
Internal Affairs,**

**Equality.**

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- The delegates at the conference sympathized with other colonized peoples (especially in Africa) that had not yet established independent governments and European colonization still existed in many countries.
  - The decolonization of Africa took place during 1950s to 1970s.



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- The delegates agreed about the **FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE**, made popular by Indo-China Peace Treaty of 1954.
  - These conferences sought to build solidarity among recently independent nations free from temptations of both capitalism and Stalinism, striving to protect their recently earned independence.




# ECONOMIC CHARACTERIZATION

- The third world countries are also called **DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**.
- They are facing almost the same common economic and social problems across many continents.

# COMMONALITY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

- ❖ Malnutrition,
- ❖ Unemployment,
- ❖ Overpopulation,
- ❖ Economic,
- ❖ Backwardness,
- ❖ Danger of Neo-Colonialism,
- ❖ Political Instability & Insecurity,
- ❖ Poverty,
- ❖ Starvation,
- ❖ Illiteracy
- ❖ Low Economic and Industrial Development,
- ❖ Ethnic conflicts.



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- The third world is not a **HOMOGENOUS** group.
  - These countries have different political system and level of economic development.
  - But they have similar problems and aspirations and call themselves as non-aligned countries.



# THEY FERVENTLY OPPOSED

- † Imperialism,
- † Colonialism,
- † Apartheid,
- † Foreign Intervention

# THEY PASSIONATELY SUPPORTED

- † Peaceful Coexistence,
- † Right of Self-determination,
- † Disarmament And World Peace.

# END OF THIRLD WORDISM

- The political relevance of *THIRD WORLDISM* after crumpling of the Cold War has become questionable.
- The “economic success of the **‘NEWLY INDUSTRIALIZING COUNTRIES’** of Asia like South Korea and Singapore etc. set new examples for the third world nations to divest out of cold war psyche and adopt innovative mix of political & economic policies towards attainment of developmental goals.



# THE FOURTH WORLD ? HOW MANY MORE WORLDS ?

- These **NICs** demonstrated that the hierarchical nature of the global economy was no more an obstacle by exhibiting a sort of “capitalist transformation of Asia.”
- “The Fourth World” also came out of the third world.
- These countries are called **OPEC** (**Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries**) and they owe their wealth to oil production.

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- Many countries are making efforts to merge into first world while laggards may remain as the second world.
  - Existence or Categorization of nations into of worlds labeled as first to four suggests that **GLOBAL HUMAN SOCIETY**
  - Faces many rifts of **INEQUALITY** , **DEPRIVATION** and **POWERLESSNESS**



# THIRD WORLD AND GLOBAL VULNERABILITY

In the times of global crises like

**COVID19**, the risk in one part of the  
world may make other nations  
**vulnerable to apocalyptic**  
threats from **THIRD**  
**WORLD**





# THANK YOU

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