

# MPA Collaborative Network Further Learning

By Gabrielle Felder, Director of Research and Consulting at Just Communities Central Coast

## Key Terms

### Colonialism

*Colonialism* is the dominance and subjugation of one group by another for the purpose of economic exploitation (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy). Colonialism usually happens in tandem with imperialism (see imperialism). The key players in colonial regimes are “the adventurer and the pirate, the wholesale grocer and the ship owner, the gold digger and the merchant, appetite and force” (Aime Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*, pg. 33). Colonialism typically involves the invasion or military occupation of one nation by another. It can also include predatory loans and fabricated debt (ex. French economic relations with Haiti and West Africa).

Further learning: Discourse on Colonialism by Aime Cesaire

[https://libcom.org/files/zz\\_aime\\_cesaire\\_robin\\_d.g.\\_kelley\\_discourse\\_on\\_colbook4me.org\\_.pdf](https://libcom.org/files/zz_aime_cesaire_robin_d.g._kelley_discourse_on_colbook4me.org_.pdf)

### White Supremacy

White Supremacy is the systemic discrimination, violence, genocide, and oppression of all non-white people for the economic benefit of Western Europeans. White supremacy is a global system of domination that places Western Europeans (Anglos) at the top of the racial hierarchy over other white people (Eastern Europeans, some West Asian, some North Africans, (white) Jewish folks, multiracial white people, white Latin Americans) and above all Black people and people of color.

Further learning: bell hooks on interlocking systems of domination

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUpY8PZlgV8&ab\\_channel=Jennie-LaureSully](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUpY8PZlgV8&ab_channel=Jennie-LaureSully)

### Anthropocene

The Anthropocene is a proposed geological epoch dating from the commencement of significant human impact on Earth's geology and ecosystems, including, but not limited to, anthropogenic climate change. Sometimes referred to as the "Capitalocene", this era is marked by the role capitalism and the Industrial Revolution play in the destruction of the global ecosystem, climate change, and the social and cultural impacts of both.

Further learning: 'Capitalism Made This Mess, And This Mess Will Ruin Capitalism' (Wired, 2019) <https://www.wired.com/story/capitalocene/>

## Environmental Colonialism

Environmental colonialism challenges the idea that the anthropocene began with the Industrial Revolution and argues that its true beginning is with the colonization of the Americas. European colonization of the Americas established global trade routes between Europe, West Africa, and the Americas, transporting millions of Africans, as well as flora from Africa (cotton, rice, indigo, coffee, black eyed peas, okra) and flora from the Americas (corn, chocolate, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers). Invasive species were introduced along with foreign diseases that killed over 50 million Indigenous Americas. Colonizers decimated indigenous flora and fauna (ex. buffalo, salmon) and preventing indigenous peoples from traditional land management (ex. regulated burns in California).

Further learning: 'How Our Colonial Past Altered the Ecobalance of the Entire Planet' (The Guardian, 2018) <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/jun/10/colonialism-changed-earth-geology-climate-scientists>

## Environmental Racism

Environmental racism refers to the disproportionate burden of environmental hazards in Black, Indigenous, and POC communities. A 2018 EPA study found that communities of color face on average a 28% higher health burden compared to the general population because of proximity to facilities emitting particulate pollutants. For Black Americans, that disproportionate health burden skyrocketed to 54% higher than the general population. Housing discrimination, the legacy of colonization and enslavement, income/wealth inequality, lack of green space, gentrification, and institutional racism all contribute to environmental health disparities.

Further learning: 'Race Best Predicts Whether You Live Near Pollution' (The Nation, 2016)

<https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/race-best-predicts-whether-you-live-near-pollution/>

## Links to Further Learning

### Black Radical Ecology

- <https://redvoice.news/burnin-down-massas-house-notes-toward-a-black-radical-ecology/>
- <https://nuestrasraicesverdes.com/podcast/radical-black-ecology/> (Podcast episode with Gabrielle Felder, Director of Research and Consulting at Just Communities)
- <https://www.aaihs.org/we-need-histories-of-radical-black-ecology-now/>
- [https://redvoice.news/black\\_radical\\_ecology\\_and\\_the\\_anthropogenic\\_question/](https://redvoice.news/black_radical_ecology_and_the_anthropogenic_question/)

### BIPOC-led Environmental Organizations

- <https://www.publichistoryproject.org/>
- <https://www.soulfirefarm.org/>
- <https://www.intersectionalenvironmentalist.com/>
- <https://outdoorafro.com/>