



Global justice

Critical thinking of global power relations

Global Justice!

This is planet Earth. We use the term “global” to refer to the Earth as a whole. This includes all inhabitants and territories on the Earth.

The Global North and Global South is not so much a geographic categorization. Global South describes a disadvantages social, political and economic position in the global system. The Global North on the other hand, describes position of advantage. The categorization refers to the different experiences of colonialism and exploitation with the Global North as the primary beneficiaries and the Global South as the primary exploited. Power relations define the conflict.

The Global North and South does not only refer to the geographic position of countries on Earth, but can also independently mean different positions of people in relation to power, economy and politics.

The Global South is viewed as a provider of cheap natural resources and and cheap labor so that the Global North can maintain and fuel it's imperial mode of living, characterized by high consumerism and excessive energy consumption. This has led to (and is leading) to increasing social/global inequalities and environmental destruction. The Global North benefits not only from an economic perspective but also ecologically.

So what is the imperial mode of living?

The imperial mode of living is the result of imperialism, industrialization and and the expansion of capitalism, made possible through colonial violence and domination.

The imperial mode of living primarily exists in the highly industrialized economies of the Global North. It describes a system of living and production that is based on the systematic access to cheap resources and labor elsewhere, often in the Global South and the shifting of the costs of environmental damage to “poorer” or more marginalized regions of the world. It can be seen in the lifestyles and economic activities of most people in the Global North. This allows richness and prosperity in





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the Global North at the expense of nature, future generations and disadvantaged people in the South and North. The Imperial mode of living therefore offers greater privileges and opportunities for people in the Global North in comparison to those in the Global South.

The solidary mode of living provides an alternative to the imperial mode of living. It is not based on profit maximization, over consumption and exclusion. It promotes values such as togetherness, cooperation, justice, sustainability and democracy. It stands for a fundamental change in our relationships with not only other human lives, but also with nature and other forms of life.

The solidary mode of living exists in self-organized local/grassroots-communities, trying to live independently from imperial and capitalist systems and structures. This becomes more and more difficult because of the globalization of capitalism and the growing inequalities and injustices that force alternative ways of living into marginalization. However there are examples and movements in the Global South promoting ways of living based on solidarity that challenge the modern & imperial mode of living.

Community work, actions, education and organizing are necessary in order for everyone to live a dignified life that doesn't oppress other lives. Only this way, a good life for all can be guaranteed.

Over the past centuries, political, economic and cultural power relations have been created that are effective globally and from which the Global North still benefits today. The Global North continues to undervalue labor in the Global South, justify exploitation and oppression and to maintain a sense of superiority. This is a structural problem that creates hierarchies and gives more privileges to a lot of (white) people in the Global North. Because of continuities of colonialism, capitalism and supremacy, the model of an imperial mode of living is a response to a social hierarchy that gives more privileges to white people.





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Black, Indigenous and People of Color have a reduced access to opportunities. These types of social inequalities due to racial discrimination are referred to as "racism".

As a global community it is important to remove those barriers, in order to create a global life without discrimination and social inequalities and to establish global justice and equity for all.

References:

Wörter des Globalen Lernens

Menschen unterschiedlicher Betroffenheit begegnen sich zu wenig, um über sozial-ökologische Krisen zu diskutieren. Debatten über mögliche Lösungen finden in eher privilegierten und/oder in sich recht geschlossenen Gruppen statt. Es fehlt die Verbindung von vielfältigen Erfahrungen und Perspektiven, um Lösungsvorschläge zu erarbeiten, die für alle passen. Das ist ungerecht und macht für viele Menschen Nachhaltigkeit unattraktiv.

Unser Glossar soll helfen, das zu ändern. Das Glossar deckt viele Begriffe ab, die Benachteiligungen von Menschengruppen beschreiben. Der Grund dafür ist, dass die Klimakrise und viele soziale Probleme auf der Welt eng verbunden sind mit Diskriminierungsverhältnissen.

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For the „Global Justice!“ method it is recommended that the following definitions be consulted:

- Unsustainable lifestyles & (green) growth
- Globalization, Global South and North
- Colonialism and postcolonialism
- Justice
- Buen vivir, "to live well"
- (Global) solidarity





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English:

<https://konzeptwerk-neue-oekonomie.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/>

[Glossar GlobalesLernen Englisch digital-1.pdf](#)

Deutsch:

<https://konzeptwerk-neue-oekonomie.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/>

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Source

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<https://konzeptwerk-neue-oekonomie.org/materialien/publikationen/>

