



This video was created by Prairie Fire Organizing Committee. We are a grassroots activist organization which has worked for social change since 1975. We are part of a movement that demands liberation and justice for all people. We oppose sexism, racism, homophobia, and imperialism. Please contact us for more information about this video or our other ongoing projects:

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Engendering Colonialism:

The Effect of 100 Years of U.S. Colonialism on Women in Hawai'i, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and The Philippines



an educational history created by Prairie Fire Organizing Committee available on VHS video cassette

Engendering Colonialism

We do not live in a post-colonial world. We live in a world where the United States continues to hold onto its colonies, while simultaneously advocating “free trade” and corporate globalization. This is a world in which both old and new forms of U.S. colonialism co-exist, both of which depend upon the exploitation of women.

This video is a historical examination of U.S. colonialism and its impact on women. In 1898 the U.S. expanded beyond North America and seized control of Hawai’i, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. This video examines what this expansion has meant to the women living in these four countries and their struggles to free themselves from U.S. domination.

This 40 minute video illustrates how the struggle for women’s rights is an essential component of the fight over globalization and how this struggle is related to the history of colonialism.

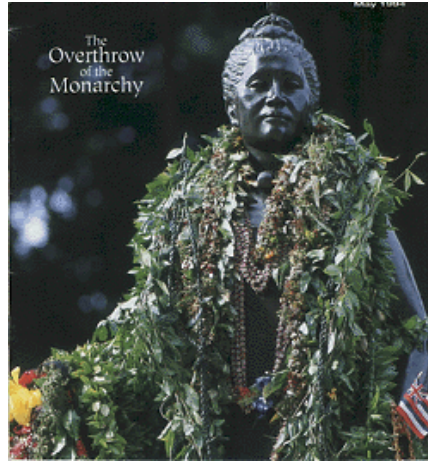


Introduction 00:00 to 03:22

The concept of colonialism is introduced, highlighting the themes common to each of the histories examined in the other segments. It locates the origins of U.S. colonialism abroad in the theft of Native American Indian lands by European settlers and the conquest of northern Mexico by the U.S. government in 1848. read by Anne Statton

Hawai’i 03:23 to 11:46

This segment examines the overthrow of Queen Lili’uokalani and the attack on traditional Hawai’ian culture by missionaries and businessmen from the U.S. It explores how the transformation of Hawai’i from a sovereign nation to a U.S. state affected Hawai’ian women and how Hawai’ian women have resisted U.S. economic, cultural, and political attempts to destroy their nation. read by Aiko Boyce



Cuba 11:47 to 18:47

Cuban women have won many important victories, but they continue to struggle against a U.S. economic embargo that threatens to roll back their advances. Cuba continues to be a symbol of resistance to U.S. domination, more than forty years since the revolution. This section focuses on the growth and expansion of the tourist industry from the early 1900s, through the 1959 revolution to today, and the impact this industry has had on Cuban women. read by Rosalinda Padilla



The Philippines 18:48 to 26:26

This segment looks at how the U.S. occupation of the Philippines has affected Filipinas from the war of 1898 to the establishment of U.S. military bases and the ensuing development of the sex trade to the struggles today against the Visiting Forces Agreement, contract workers and the commodification of women. read by Rhoda Rae Gutierrez



Puerto Rico 26:27 to 33:56

The U.S. invaded Puerto Rico in 1898 and today maintains the country as, in the language of the United Nations, a “non-self-governing body.” This section traces key issues that have affected Puerto Rican women’s lives under U.S. colonialism such as their work in the garment industry, widespread sterilization, welfare, and their opposition to U.S. colonialism. read by Rosalinda Padilla



Conclusion 33:57 to 38:40

This segment offers an overview of how women in the United States have supported struggles against U.S. imperialism during the last hundred years. read by Anne Statton