

# HST 496: EMPIRE & ENVIRONMENT

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This course examines the ways colonialism impacted the environment and the influence of the environment on colonial policies. We will consider how the unequal power structures of colonialism transform people's relationship, and access, to the land as colonial settlers and states seized land from indigenous populations for their own use. In particular, the class will examine how the land and environment in colonized sites were used to enrich white colonial states and peoples at the expense of the indigenous populations. Case studies will draw from examples in Africa, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, and the Americas, and will include discussions of raw materials (such as rubber, minerals, and oil), transformation to the physical environment through urbanization and deforestation, the spread of disease, famine, and representations of the environment. We will also analyze forms of environmental resistance by colonized peoples. Finally, the class will consider the lasting environmental legacies of imperialism.