

'Marrakech'

Higher Non-Fiction Prose Study

Colonialism

1. Colonialism

Colonialism is the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting its indigenous (native) people and/or resources.

Colonialism operates upon an unequal relationship between the colonisers (people seizing control of the country) and the colonised (people who are taken control of). The decisions affecting the lives, wellbeing, opportunities and economics of the colonised people are made by the colonial rulers. Colonised people are often abused, exploited and offered limited or unfair opportunities for work or education.

The French had **colonial rule** over Marrakech and the rest of Morocco between 1904 and 1956. This means the French invaded and occupied the country during this time. They controlled the people and the Morocco's resources.

The French **colonised** Morocco.

2. Colony

A colony is a territory or country under the immediate rule and political control of another state or country.

Morocco was a **colony** of France. This means France had total control and authority over the country's people and resources.

3. Coloniser

Coloniser refers to the people / nation / state who invade and seize control of another country. Colonisers settle in their colonised territory, where they rule over and exploit the natives.

Between 1904 and 1956, the French were **colonisers** in Morocco.

4. Colonised

If a state, nation or country is occupied, ruled and controlled by another, usually by force or invasion, it is said to be **colonised**. We would also refer to the inhabitants of the occupied state as colonised people or **colonised subjects**.

In Morocco, the **colonised African subjects** were treated poorly and abused by the **French colonisers**.

5. Decolonisation

The undoing or collapsing of colonialism. When a state, country or nation regains independence or autonomy, it has been **decolonised**. When colonial powers withdraw their presence, the state, country or nation is **decolonised**.

Decolonisation occurred in Morocco in 1956 when France handed over full independence to Morocco. This came as the result of increasing unrest and uprisings against French colonial rule, and also due to France's surrendering during World War II, which led to a loss of power and influence.

'Marrakech'
Context: The Colonisation of Africa

- The 'Scramble for Africa' refers to the process of invasion, occupation and colonisation of Africa by Europe between the late C19th and World War 1.
- Africa was rich in natural resources such as cotton, cocoa, diamonds, tea, rubber and tin. Europe's invasion of Africa was largely due to their desire to harvest and acquire these resources, which were rare or non-existent in European countries.
- There was resistance and aggressive uprising against European attempts at colonisation: the Moroccans, Ashanti, Abyssinians and Zulus fought hard against enforced colonisation. They were, however, defeated by the Europeans' more sophisticated and advanced weapons technology.
- By 1913, France and Britain controlled the majority of the African continent. Spain and Portugal also held considerable control. Morocco had lost every trace of independence by 1912.
- In World War II, colonised nations were forced to fight on the side of their colonial masters. This was a form of enslavement: Moroccans had no conflict with Germany, so were fighting against an unknown enemy in a war which did not affect them. There was no advantage for the colonised peoples: they were forced to fight with no promise of freedom and no benefits.
- Following unrest and France's surrender in World War II, their global influence weakened. France's overseas colonies were gradually decolonised, including Morocco in 1956.
- Decolonisation has a massive impact on countries which have long been under the power of colonial rule. They experience a loss of natural resources, as these have been exploited and traded by colonisers. Likewise, previously colonised people experience economic devastation, and a loss of cultural identity.