

What is the issue??

- Foreign powers (the U.S. and European countries) have most of the monetary power over the tourism industry in the Caribbean (Girvan, 2012).
- This means that the countries in the region are exploited for their land, but due to economic leakage and all-expense-paid packages, little profit from tourism ever enters the economy (Sealy, 2018).

Context

- Colonialism has a long and still-occurring presence in the Caribbean, and many countries rely on loans from foreign powers (Brereton & Clarke, 2020).
- Colonial racial hierarchy still exists today, and racism often determines job positions within the tourism industry (Sealy, 2018).
- As little as 10% of profits made from Caribbean tourism actually enter the regional economy (Sealy, 2018).
- The Caribbean is one of the regions most impacted by climate change, and tourism as it currently exists is extremely harmful to the environment (Weiss et al., 2018).
- The tourism industry has a long history with human rights violations, especially regarding poverty and land rights (Eriksson et al., 2009).

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For my final project, I chose to research tourism in the Caribbean and its relationship with colonialism, and I argue that tourism in the region is a form of neocolonialism.

Why did you choose this topic?

- I've previously studied Caribbean tourism in other classes, but never in the context of social work, and I wanted to pursue that avenue.

One point that you want you classmates to know about this topic:

- Colonialism still exists in a very literal way in the Caribbean; some countries in the region remain colonies (Brereton & Clarke, 2020). However, it is important to understand how globalization has created new forms of colonialism.

How does this intersect with social work practice (micro/mezzo/macro)

- Currently, the most common form of social work in the Caribbean region is casework (Baker & Maxwell, 2011).
- Many countries in the region rely on welfare services, both from their own nations and from foreign powers (Baker & Maxwell, 2011). The reliance on economic gain from foreign powers – especially in times of natural disaster – is a form of colonialism that exists, in part, due to tourism (Weiss et al., 2018).
- Tourism often goes hand-in-hand with human rights abuses and worsening poverty of local populations (Eriksson et al., 2009).

References

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