US Empire and South African Subimperialism

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Abstract

Imperialism, subimperialism and anti-imperialism are all settling into durable patterns and alignments in Africa--especially South Africa--even if the continent’s notoriously confusing political discourses sometimes conceal the collisions and collusions. The postures of many African leaders vis-a-vis imperialism can best be understood as ‘talking left, walking right’, insofar as they veil the underlying dynamics of accumulation, class struggle and geopolitics. How can we understand this political inconsistency? How much does it reflect the requirements of a US-led capitalist empire that uses Africa for surplus extraction and the spreading and deepening of global neoliberalism, and that especially relies on South Africa for legitimacy and subimperial deputy-sheriff support? To answer, consider first the context of modern imperialism, which in Africa combines an accumulation strategy based on neoliberalism and the extraction of ever cheaper minerals and cash crops, with increasing subservience to US-led, indirect, neocolonial rule. The next step is to locate South Africa's position as the regional hegemon, identifying areas where imperialism is facilitated in Africa by the Pretoria-Johannesburg state-capitalist nexus, in part through Mbeki's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and in part through the logic of private capital.
US Empire And South African Subimperialism US EMPIRE AND SOUTH AFRICAN SUBIMPERIALISM - Patrick Bond - Imperialism, subimperialism and anti-imperialism are all settling into durable patterns and aligning. What's Wrong With The HIPC Initiative And What's Next Development Policy Review, 2002, 20 (1): 5-24. The US is generally agreed to have had a policy of formal imperialism in the late 19th century. [5] The government of the US does not refer to itself as an empire today, but some commentators refer to it as such, including mainstream Western writers such as Max Boot, Arthur Schlesinger, and Niall Ferguson. [6]. And in the United States, empire does not even exist; 'we' are merely protecting the causes of freedom, democracy and justice worldwide. [49]. Wilsonian intervention [edit]. American troops marching in Vladivostok during the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War, August 1918.