

Legacies and Afterlives of the Empire

Accounting for British History: The Political Economy of Colonialism and Empire

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Centre for British Studies
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The history of Britain tends to be presented in terms of a national past where that national past has, in turn, been central to the emergence of a global economic order, capitalism. The separation of the political as national and the economy as global elides the histories of colonialism and empire that connect the two. This renders empire an apparent irrelevance to the construction of political institutions and practices of the British state. This talk suggests that the history of Britain is more effectively understood in the context of a political economy of colonialism and empire.

Dr Gurminder K. Bhambra is Professor of Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies at the University of Sussex. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Historical Society and is currently President of the British Sociological Association. She is co-author of *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory* (2021) with John Holmwood and the award-winning *Rethinking Modernity: Postcolonialism and the Sociological Imagination* (2007). She is currently working on a Leverhulme Trust funded project on 'Varieties of Empire, Varieties of Colonialism'.