

A glossary of ‘Imagined Communities’

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Census

1. A classification system that consists of imaginary, racial identities and categories of the natives in a colonial state
2. A ‘fiction’ that every human being ruled in a colonial state can be classified into one category of identity, ideally a racial one, without ambiguity

People

Natives of a colonial state

Other

Any person that is unbounded, undetermined, uncategorisable, and uncountable

Domain

A territory that is being imagined, premediated, established and controlled through three institutions that are census, map, and museum.

Map

An instrument for the Western countries to survey, calculate, align, classify, totalise and reimagine the land of the colonial states for administrative, military, and political purposes

Historical maps

1. A series of maps that demonstrate the history of a colony
2. A series of maps that form a ‘political-biographical’ narrative of the land
3. A series of maps that, once accepted and adopted by the nation due to its imagined, reconstructed heritage value, can revive the ‘legacy’ of a colonial state in the post colonial period.

Imagine

the process of painting a mental picture of the people, the land, the religions and the heritage of a colonised community, which could be concretised through the development of technology, such as print and photography

Museum

1. A tool to form ‘alternative legitimacy’ in the colonial states through the archaeological restoration
2. A means to restore traditional values and resist any progressive educational systems for the colonial natives

Archaeology

A methodology of mapping, photographing, documenting, reconstructing, and replicating historic sites, through which enables the inheritance of the imagined history and colonial power even in the postcolonial era

Monument

1. A reconstructed tourist attraction that generates profits in the age of mechanical reproduction
2. An imagined cultural heritage that becomes part of national identity
3. A token of monarchies in Europe
4. A series of ancient sites that are available for surveillance and replication

Warp

1. Also called the ‘grid,’
2. a rigid, binary, totalising classification system that sorts everything in a colony into a specific, countable, and bounded set

Weft

1. Also called serialisation
2. the assumption that everything can be arranged in serial order, be visible, be surveyed, be quantified and be documented
3. a perfect ‘visibility’ that everyone and everything has a serial number, supported by the technology of surveillance, including navigation, photography, print and more.

Reference

Anderson, B. (2006) *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, Verso, London. Available from: ProQuest Ebook Central. (1 November 2023).