

UNIT 11

Colonialism in Asia and Africa



Learning Objectives



To acquaint oneself with

- The territories forming South East Asia
- Establishment of colonies by the Portuguese, the Spanish, the Dutch, the French, the British and the Americans
- Impact of colonisation on the Malaya Peninsula, Indonesia, Burma, Indo-China, Philippines
- Conquest of Africa, and the colonial regimes of the Dutch, the British, the Portuguese, the Germans, and the Belgians
- British colonisation of India and colonial control of Indian economy
- Economic impact of British rule in India

Introduction

Colonialism is a process of domination, involving the subjugation of one people by another. Like colonialism, imperialism also involves political and economic control over a dependent territory. The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy differentiates the two as follows: The term colony comes from the Latin word *colonus*, meaning farmer. This root indicates that the practice of colonialism

usually involved the transfer of population to a new territory, where the arrivals lived as permanent settlers while maintaining political allegiance to their country of origin. Imperialism, on the other hand, (from the Latin term *imperium*, meaning to command) draws attention to the way one country exercises power over another, whether through settlement, sovereignty, or indirect mechanisms of control.