



Issue: The redistribution of estate and artefacts to their country of origin.

Committee: Political

Chair(s): Daniel, Marie-Kenza, Sarah

Introduction: In addition to WWII having deeply weakened colonial powers, the rising of the USA and the USSR which were two great anti colonialist powers, created an international atmosphere that promoted colonies fight for independence. Hence, from 1945 to the early sixties, whether it happened thanks to negotiations, or by riots and violence, the world witnessed the decolonisation of dozens of Asian and African countries. Colonial powers such as France or the UK, gradually left their colonies, letting behind them joyful and relieved people. However, to this day most former colonies are developing countries, still recovering from the decades of western occupation. Moreover, the question of the thousands of artefacts stolen by colonial powers during colonisation, still has not been fully resolved

Definitions of key terms:

Sovereignty :

The power exercised over a geographic area and the population occupying it.

Neo-colonialism :

The process of developed countries trying to set their domination over now sovereign, former colonies, using different and new methods.

Post-Colonial :

The post-colonial era simply refers to the period of time that came after the western colonisation

Self-Governance :

The ability to exercise authority over oneself, as an individual, a group, or a nation, without the interference of an exterior party.

Artefact :

An object made by human hands and that has a particular historical interest

Historical notes :

The decolonisation was accompanied and amplified by a political and literary movement established by some black, french speaking writers, such as Birago Diop or Léopold Sédar Senghor . " La négritude "

General overview:

In 1976, under the aegis of UNESCO, a committee of experts met in Venice to study the question of the restitution or return of lost cultural property, whether as a result of foreign or colonial occupation or following illicit traffic before the entry into force, for the States concerned, of the 1970 Convention.

Many artifacts were stolen by the european countries, as a matter of fact, over 3000 artefacts were stolen from benin by the british forces.

Major actors:

France : Colonial country wich colonised many countries such as algeria, Senegal and more.

The UK : Important country as a colonizer again, they colonized a part of india and some african countries like Benin.

Belgium: Has colonized many countries such as Congo or Rwanda.

India : Has been partly colonized by England.

Algeria : has been colonized by France

Senegal : Country colonized by France which has lost a lot of artefacts.

Previous Resolutions :

Although some countries such as France or the Netherlands are taking steps forward, towards the restitution of stolen artefacts to their origin countries (Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Burkina Faso, ...) the concept of cultural property remains a hot topic, causing many controversial debates and disagreements in the diplomatic world.

Possible Resolutions :

Former colonial powers could contribute financially in the building of museums and spaces in former colonies, capable of hosting the artefacts again. Besides, it is necessary for former colonies to remain heard and listened, when it comes to that matter.

Guideline :

How could former colonies benefit from the restitution of the stolen artefacts ?

Why is it important for former colonies to get their artefacts back ?

Why is it not ?

Should the artefacts still be considered theirs ?

How was your country involved in colonisation and decolonisation ?

what is your country's thoughts on redistributing estates and artefacts ?

Bibliography:

Collection d'art et d'archive coloniale, Quai Branly

<https://m.quaibranly.fr/fr/collections/toutes-les-collections/histoire-des-collections>

Colonisation dans le monde apres la guerre, CVCE.eu

<https://www.cvce.eu/education/unit-content/-/unit/dd10d6bf-e14d-40b5-9ee6-37f978c87a01/c73d4620-b964-4a67-ab1e-d2457898711d>