

Kiernan Foley
Dr. DeCaro
History of Christianity
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Gonzalez Chapter 9 5-3-1

Questions:

1. What was the “white man’s burden”, and how was it connected to modern trends?
2. How were the two world wars different than those in the past?
3. In what ways were decolonization and modernity connected?
4. What was a main reason the church in Russia succeeded despite governmental pressure?
5. What are ‘contextual theologies’, and why did they rise in this time?

Answers:

1. Similar to “manifest destiny”, “white man’s burden” was the belief that their pursuits of advancement and progress (inspired by the belief that all problems would be solved by reason and technology) would benefit ‘backwards people’ in the long run, even if it had negative consequences in the present.
2. The pursuit of technology during the wars led to far greater casualties, especially on the poorer colonized nations.
3. Gonzalez notes that decolonization began to happen because of the death of modernity- the world people were promised in modernity didn’t pan out, and so did the justification of colonization.
4. The church in Russia returned to practices of liturgy and orthodoxy that weren’t appreciated in the West, which strengthened a faith under duress.
5. Minority groups that had previously been hidden or unappreciated were finally being given a voice in the church and in theology, and many felt that theology needed to reflect their experiences, calling the vision of the church to see places of the gospel that traditional theologies may have left out.

Terms:

- Neocolonialism: using different methods of pressure to control and exert power over previously dominated people groups or countries.
- Periti- experts. Theologians in the Roman Catholic church.
- Barmen Declaration: German Protestant theologians’ response to the Nazi regime.

Summary:

Many new movements were born from the rise of technology and the end of modernity- all of them coming from a disillusionment with colonialism. While some branches of Christianity returned to liturgy, others in the rest of the world began to expand, with liberal theologies becoming more common from younger churches who held their right to interpret Scripture for themselves.