

# Some Geohistorical Contexts of Peace Psychology



If peace psychology aspires to be sensitive to geohistorical contexts, then what would be the content and scope of Australian peace psychology?

# ***THE PEACE PSYCHOLOGY BOOK SERIES***

Springer Science + Business Media (Springer SBM)

***Books in the Series*** (as of February 2009)

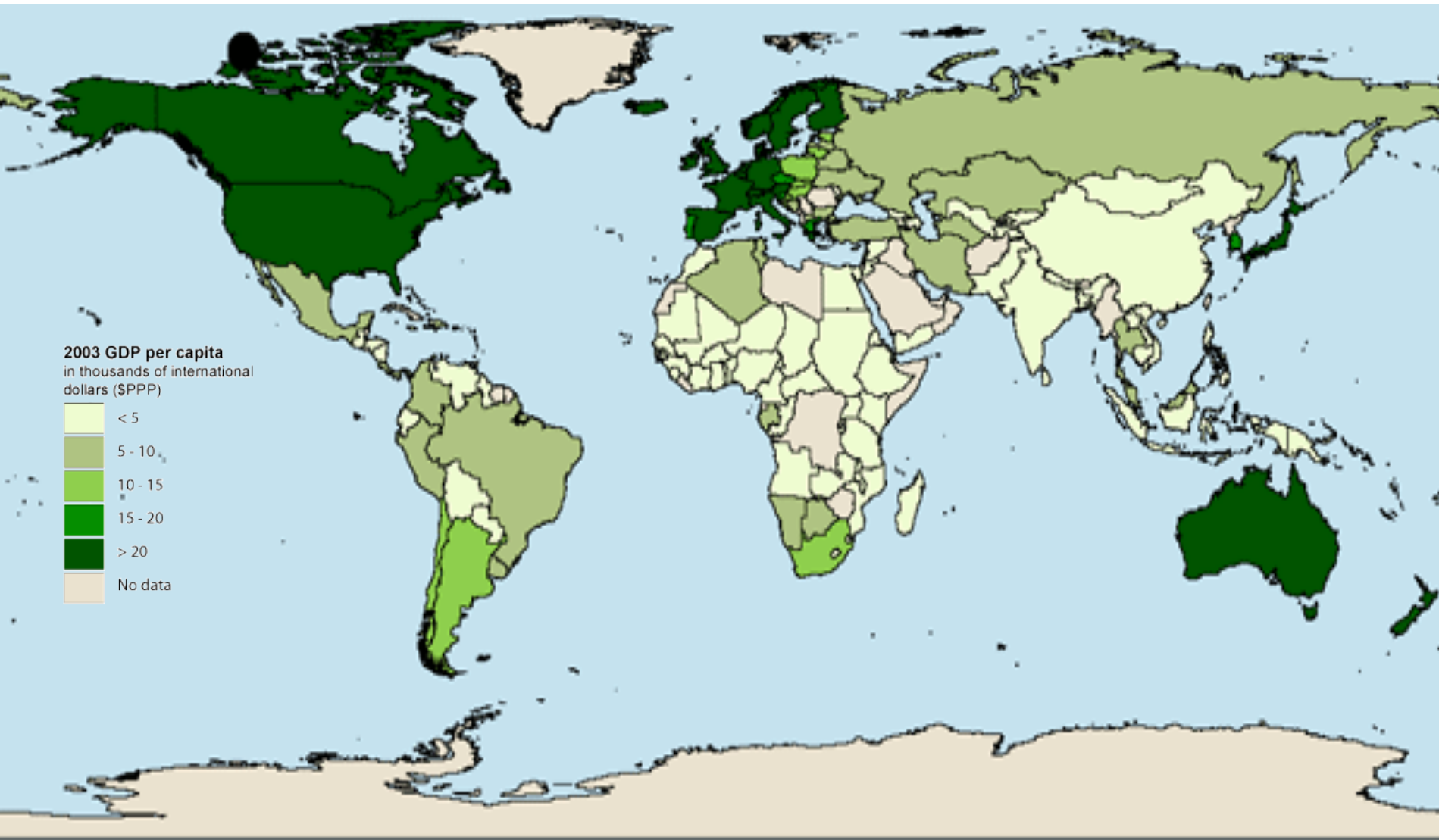
***Books with Geo-historical Focus***

- 
- ***Global Conflict Resolution through Positioning Analysis*** by Moghaddam & Harre (2008)
  - ***Liberation Psychology: Theory and Practice*** by Montero & Sonn (2009) ← Latin Amer.
  - ***Handbook on Building Cultures of Peace*** by de Rivera (2009)
  - ***Transforming Societies after Political Violence: Truth, Reconciliation, and Mental Health*** by Hamber (2009) ← S. Africa
  - ***Nonviolence and Peace Psychology*** by Mayton (2009)
  - ***Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Psychological Pathways for Conflict Transformation and PeaceBuilding*** by Kalayjian and Paloutzian (2009) ← Asia
  - ***Peace Psychology in Asia*** by Montiel & Noor (2010)
  - ***Small Group Research: Applications to Peace Psychology and Conflict Resolution*** by Blumberg, Hare, Kent, & Davies (in preparation)
  - ***Youth Violence: Reflections from and on the Field*** by Michael Greene (in preparation) ← Middle East
  - ***Forging Peace under Fire? Reconciliation-aimed Encounters between Israeli-Jews and Palestinians*** by Ifat Moaz (in preparation)

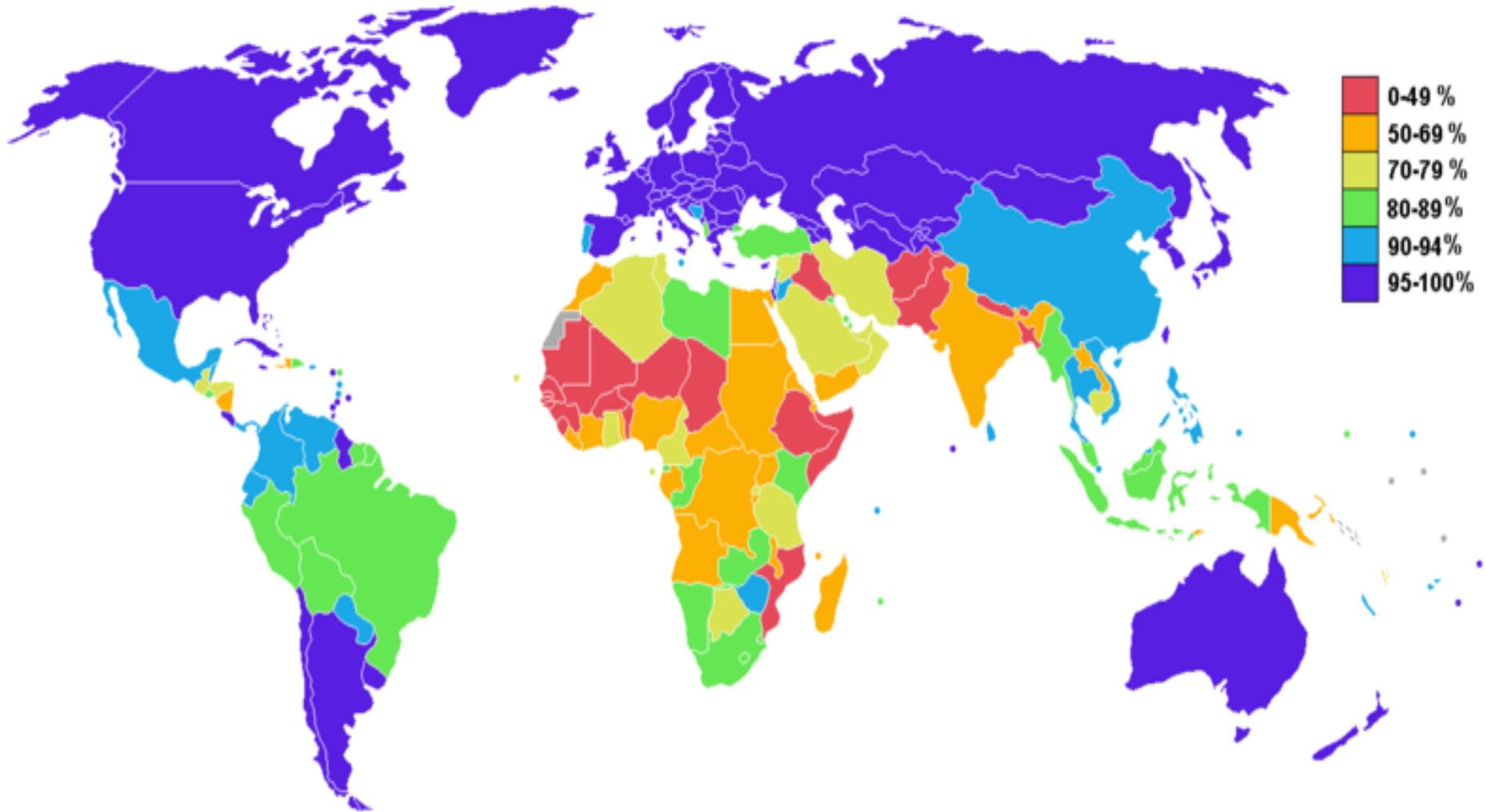
# The Meaning of Peace: Varies with Geohistorical Context

	Episodic	Structural
Violence	Episodic Violence	Structural Violence
Peace- building	Episodic Peacebuilding	Structural Peacebuilding

# Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per Capita, 2003 World Bank Data

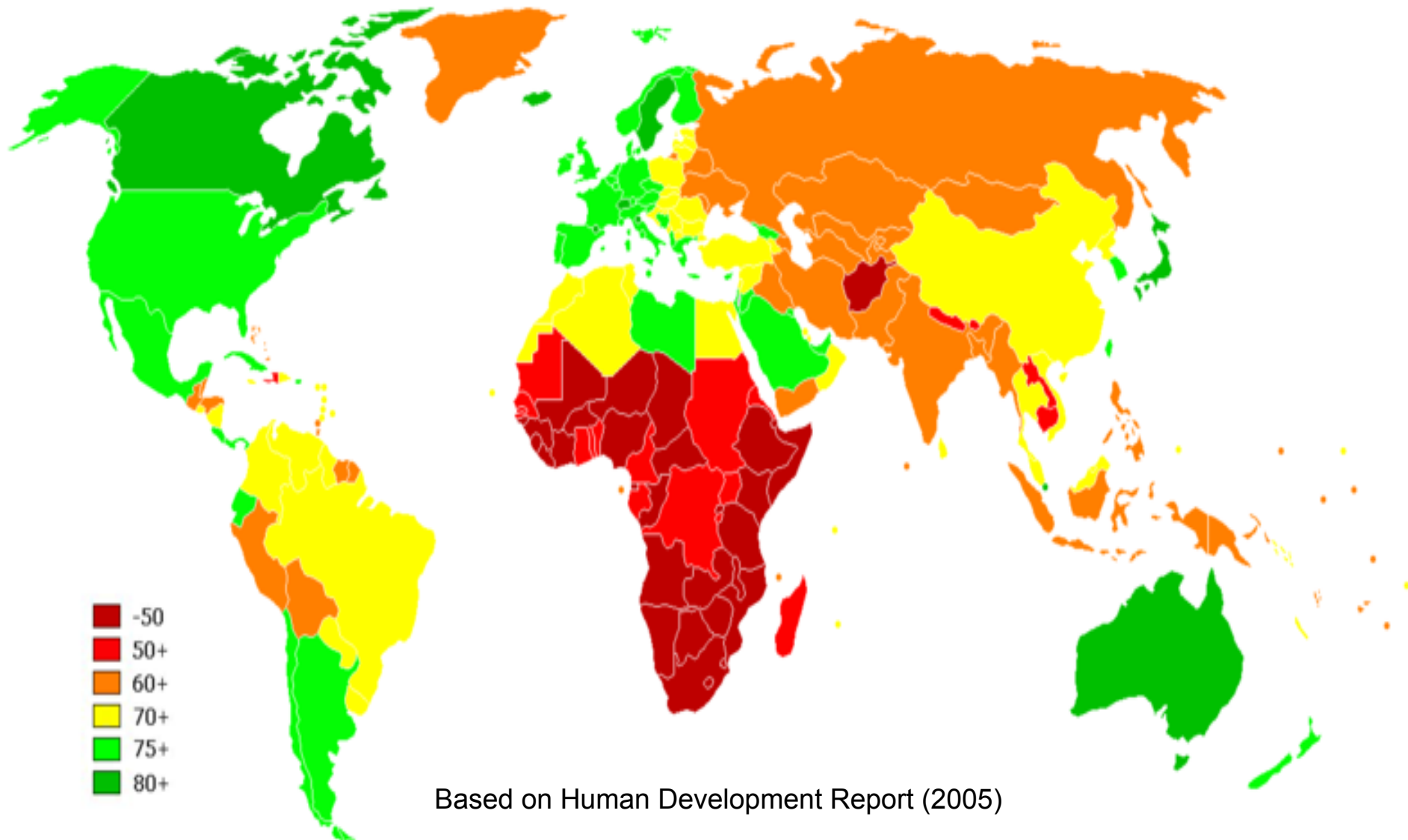


# Literacy Rates Worldwide



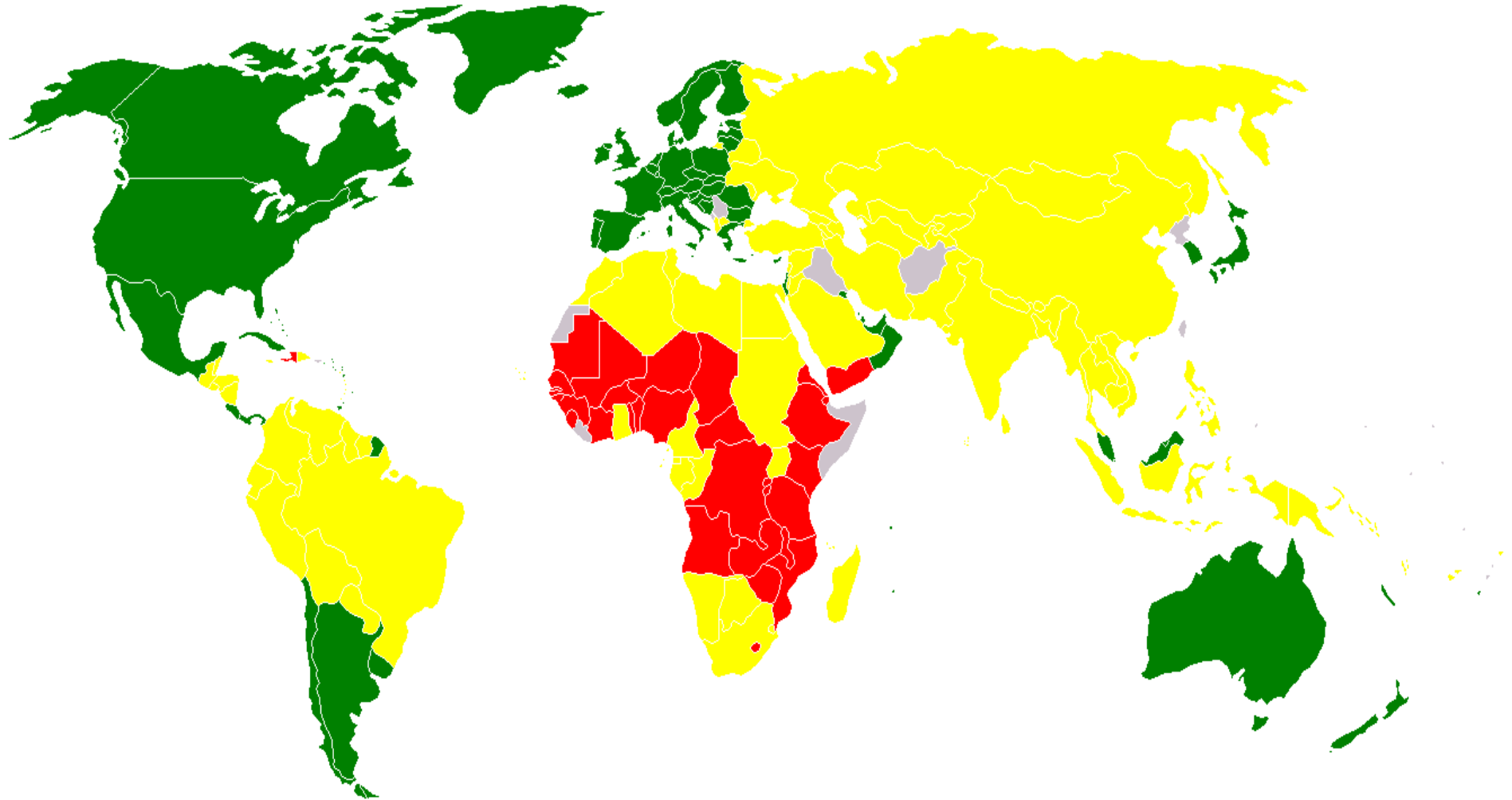
Based on Human Development Report (2005)

# Life Expectancy Worldwide



Based on Human Development Report (2005)

# High (Green), Medium (Yellow), & Low (Red) Human Development (Global Inequalities)



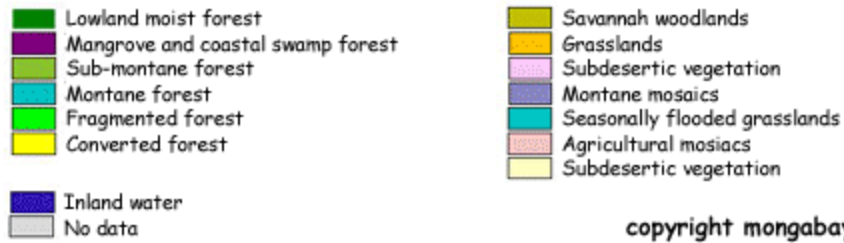
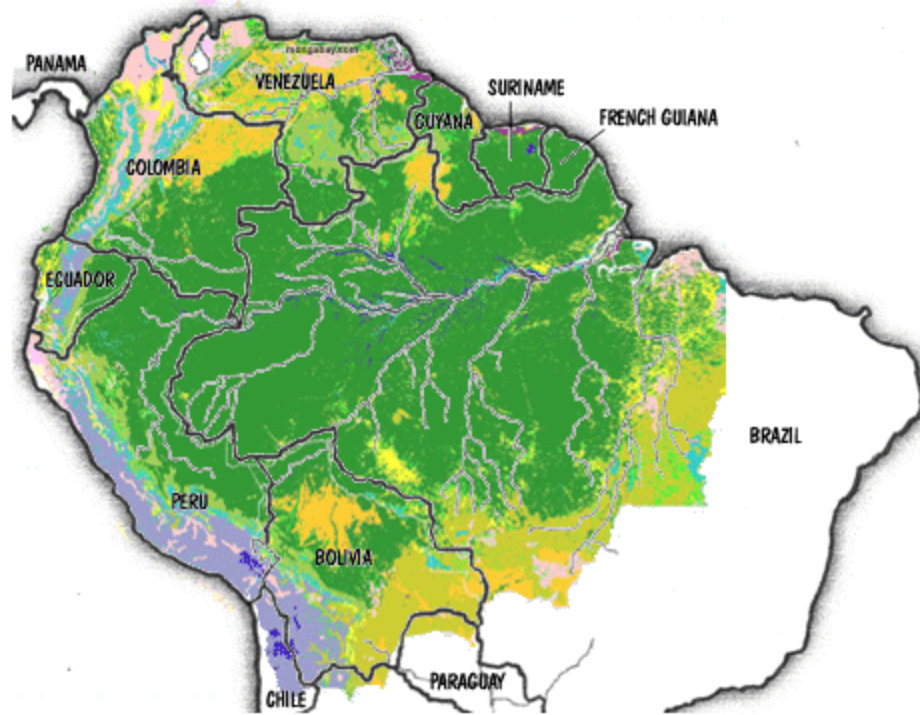
Based on Human Development Report (2005)



# Some Peace Psychology Issues in Latin America

- Conflict: Use of the Amazon
- The Legacy of Slavery
- Remnants of Colonization
- Gross Inequalities in Human Development

# Conflicts & the Amazon



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# Conflict: State of Mato Grosso, Brazil





**“It's hard for us and I don't think the government cares about farmers' problems.”**

Ivana Giacomet'  
speaking for land-  
owners





Landless Farmers

**“Forget the government, it was God that gave this land to the Indians - long before the white man arrived in Brazil”**

Alonso Iravali  
Manoki leader





# The Sustainable Development “Stool”

**Economic  
Development**

**Environmental  
Responsibility**

**Social  
Equity**



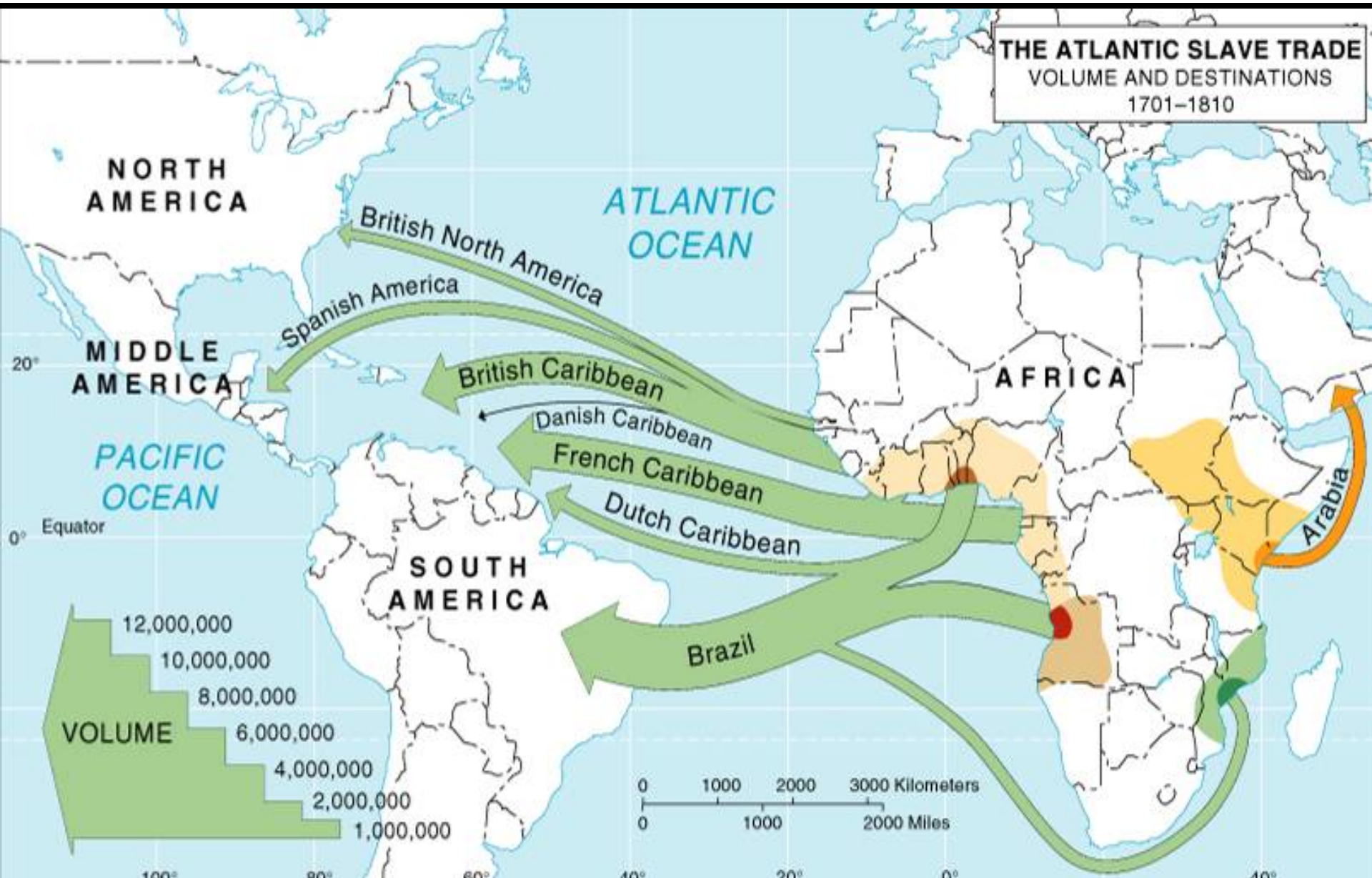
# Lula



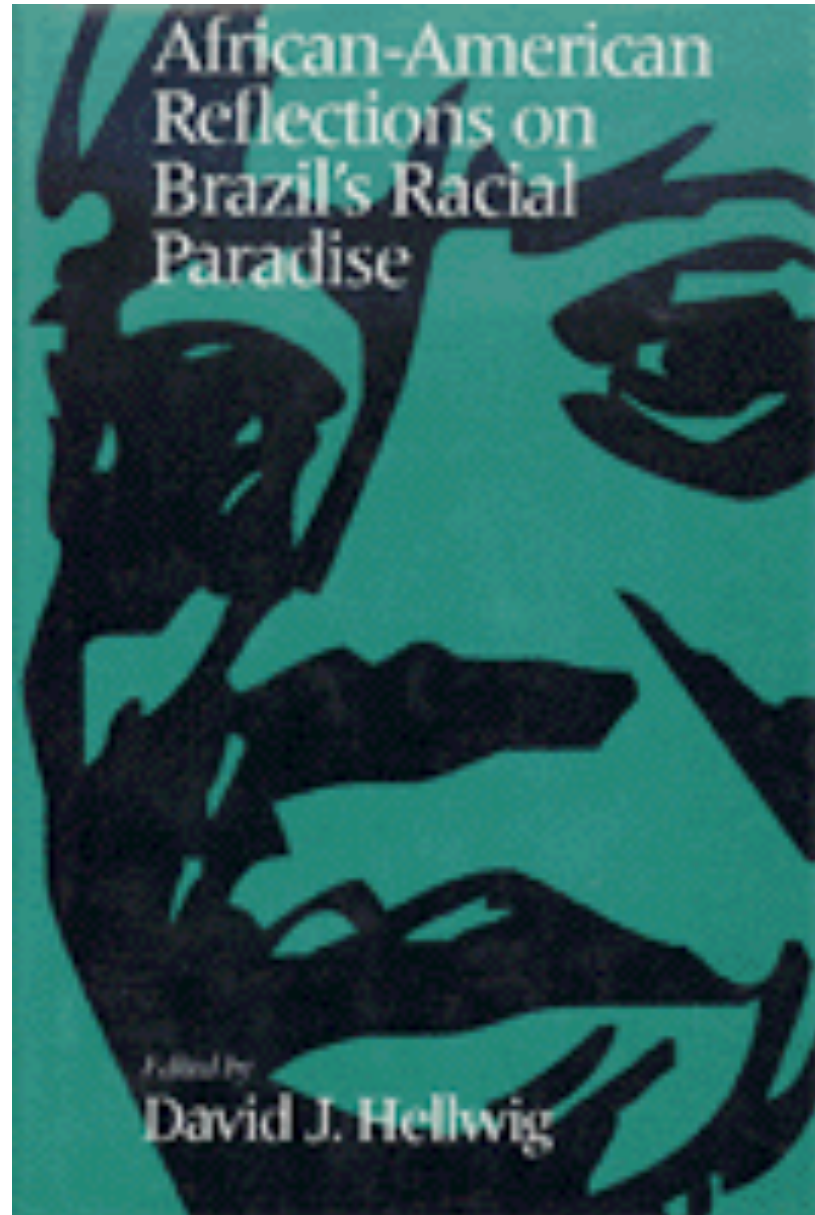
Promote  
Agribusiness

Stop Amazon  
Deforestation

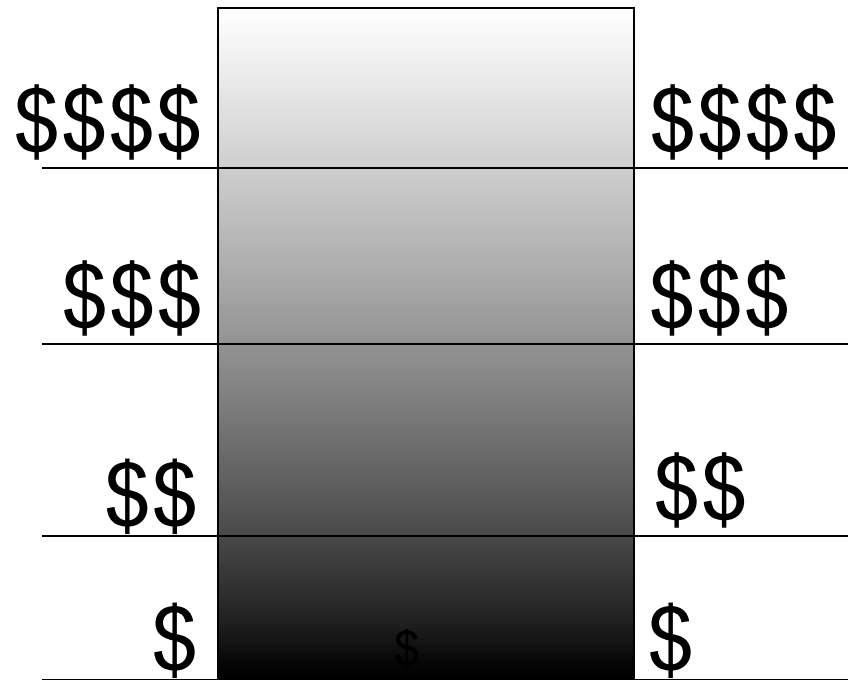
# The Legacy of Slavery



# The Myth of Racial Democracy



# The Reality of Race

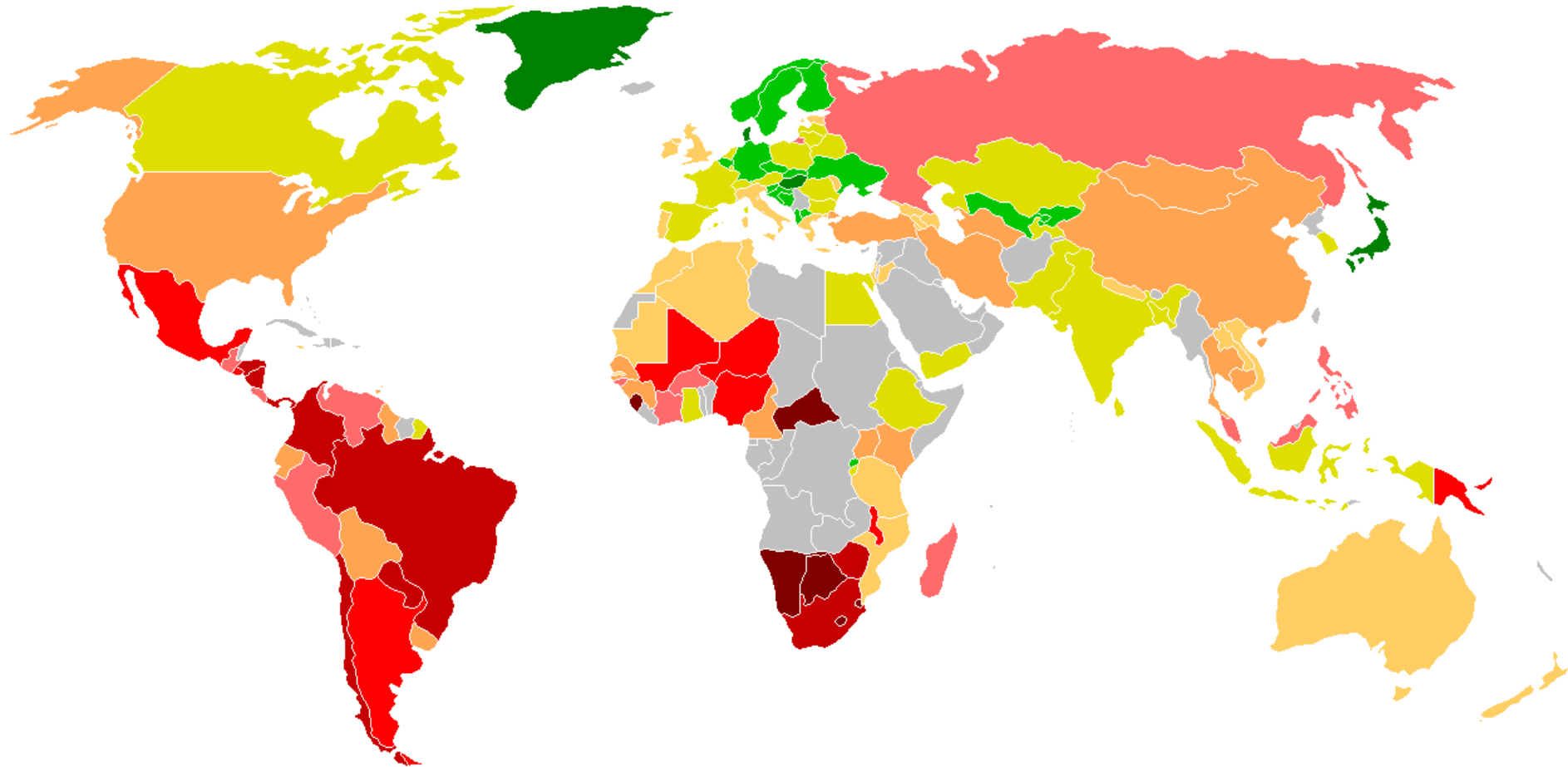












# Remnants of Colonization



Figure 3-6  
*World Regional Geography, Third Edition*  
© 2006 W. H. Freeman and Company

# Enormous Within Country Inequalities



Color	Gini coefficient				
	< 0,25		0,35 - 0,39		0,55 - 0,59
	0,25 - 0,29		0,40 - 0,44		> 0,60
	0,30 - 0,34		0,45 - 0,49		NA
			0,50 - 0,54		





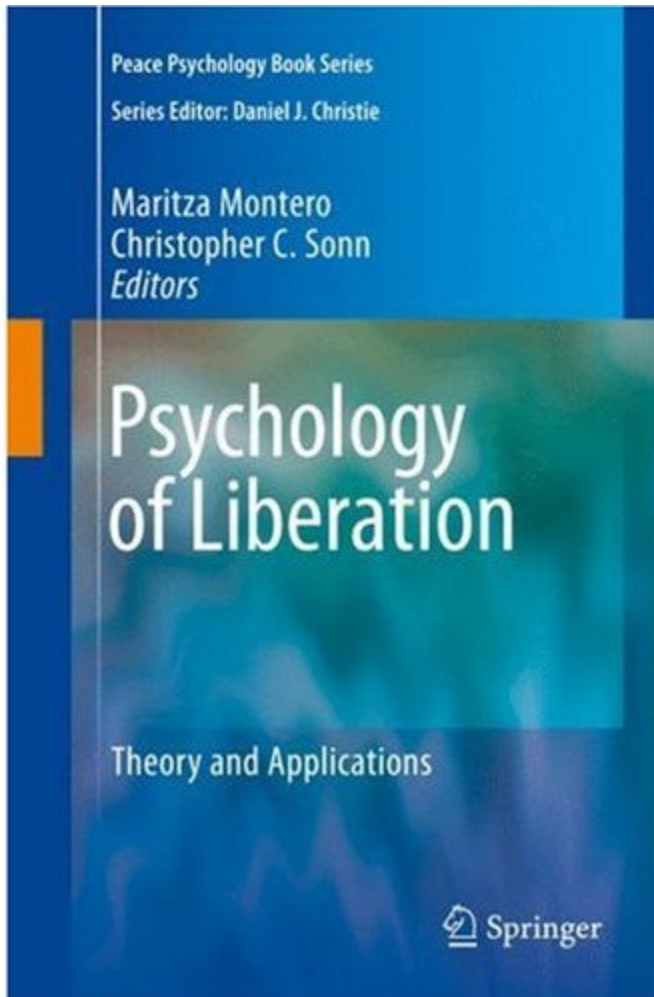








Recent elections & the growth of left-leaning governments (as of 2006).



## Peace Psychology and Geohistorical Sensitivity: The Latin Context



# Latin America & Liberation Psychology



**Figure 3-11**  
*World Regional Geography, Third Edition*  
© 2006 W. H. Freeman and Company

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- Maritza Montero and Christopher C. Sonn

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- Jorge Mario Flores Osorio

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- Bernardo Jiménez-Domínguez

## **3. Towards a Really Social Psychology: Liberation Psychology beyond Latin America**

- Mark Burton and Carolyn Kagan

## **4. Methods for Liberation: Critical Consciousness in Action**

- Maritza Montero

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# Ignacio Martín-Baró's Social Psychology of Liberation

Chapter 2: Jiménez-Domínguez,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

- In his book [Action and Ideology: Social Psychology from Central America, 1983], Ignacio Martín-Baró defined his critical social psychology as a discipline whose objective is to examine the ideological component of human behavior.



# Ignacio Martín-Baró's Social Psychology of Liberation

Chapter 2: Jiménez-Domínguez,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

In Latin America, a critical social psychology would demonstrate how an oppressive social system is enabled and justified by elites who promulgate the belief that people are passive, submissive and fatalistic in regard to the prospect of changing society towards a more socially just arrangement.

# Ignacio Martín-Baró's Social Psychology of Liberation

Chapter 2: Jiménez-Domínguez,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

[Ignacio Martín-Baró, 1985)] ... thought that one contribution social psychologists could make was “de-ideologization”, the aim of which was conscientization of the collective conscience (to inform and educate, making people aware) by challenging the ruling ideological discourse, [thereby] activating the dynamics of a de-alienating process.

# Ignacio Martín-Baró's Social Psychology of Liberation

Chapter 2: Jiménez-Domínguez,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

... psychology must go beyond a scientist obsession with objectivity and instead focus on the urgent needs of the poor majorities in Latin America and find new ways of (re)searching the truth from their own perspective. Thus he defined a new praxis for psychology linked to social transformation (Martín-Baró, 1986).

# Ignacio Martín-Baró's Social Psychology of Liberation

Chapter 2: Jiménez-Domínguez,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

Martin-Baró wasn't even doing action research, but rather practicing in a peaceful way his own situated definition of social psychology as a social science committed to the poor using the empirical tools at his disposal at that moment to unmask the repressive character of the government and to challenge the lies of the State through opinion polling. This was the real reason for his assassination by an elite force of the Salvadoran Army.

# So, what was Martin-Baro demonstrating through opinion polling?

During El Salvador's Civil War, “state discourse (the “Official Discourse”) falsely portrayed the Salvadoran people as eagerly supporting government actions, such as condoning US intervention, barring social democrats from the 1984 elections, and rejecting dialogue between insurgents and the government.”

“Martin-Baro used traditional survey methods to shape a counter-propaganda that reflected back to the Salvadoran people their true opinions ... [thereby “de-ideologizing” the situation in a way that] brought lived experience into harmony with collective sentiment.”

(Moghaddam et al., 2007, in *Toward a Global Psychology*)

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# Methods for Liberation: Critical Consciousness in Action

Chapter 4, Montero,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

- Montero argues for a social psychology in the service of social transformation:
- Social transformation in this context refers to changes in the dominant structural and cultural institutions of a society seeking more equitable and sustainable social arrangements that satisfy the basic needs of all people.

# Methods for Liberation: Critical Consciousness in Action

Chapter 4, Montero,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

- Chief among the forces behind social transformations are the processes of conscientization and problematization.



# Methods for Liberation: Critical Consciousness in Action

Chapter 4, Montero,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

- Liberation ...starts with problematization, that is, the critical and puzzling doubting about the knowledge so far considered as the way for things to be.

# Methods for Liberation: Critical Consciousness in Action

Chapter 4, Montero,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

- Conscientization develops critical capacity allowing consciousness to be liberated from the dominant conceptions given by society ... responding to interests' alien to one's living conditions. It is not restricted to cognitive aspects for it also mobilizes emotion in order to attain awareness about the circumstances influencing one's living conditions.

# Methods for Liberation: Critical Consciousness in Action

Chapter 4, Montero,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

- [Praxis] is practice within the social conditions to be changed, and reflection is used to problematize these social conditions, a process that produces de-ideologizing and de-alienating by way of a process of critical reasoning leading to a new way of understanding what is happening in the life-world.

# Methods for Liberation: Critical Consciousness in Action

Chapter 4, Montero,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

- [In regard to methodology:] The idea of action-research came from a posthumous paper by Kurt Lewin published in the *Journal of Social Issues* (1946), where he coined the idea of action-research. But what ...[later] sociologists did was different: They included the so-called research subjects in the decisions and actions concerning the research tasks; hence, the term “participatory.”

# Methods for Liberation: Critical Consciousness in Action

Chapter 4, Montero,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

[Doing research in a way that produces social] transformations did not have a name for 13 years (1957- 1970). Fals Borda (1959) simply called it action-research, in spite of *participation* being its main feature. So it was not until the 1970s (Fals Borda, 1978) that there was recognition that sociologists, anthropologists, and Freirian educators throughout Latin America were engaging in a different kind of method.

# Methods for Liberation: Critical Consciousness in Action

Chapter 4, Montero,  
in Montero & Sonn, Editors (2009)

- Participatory action research (PAR) is a methodological process and strategy actively incorporating those people and groups affected by a problem, in such a way that they become co-researchers through their action in the different phases and moments of the research carried out to solve the problem. Their participation places the locus of power and of control within their groups (Montero, 1980; 1984), mobilises their resources, leads them to acquire new ones, in order to transform their living conditions, their immediate environment and the power relations established with other groups or institutions in their society (Montero, 2000:p. 134).

# Liberation Psychology and Participatory Action Research

An example of empirical research in liberation psychology was the use of participatory action research with 346 residents in slum neighborhoods in Caracas, Venezuela.

“Discussions with residents revealed that problems, such as unreliable running water and free-flowing sewage, had become naturalized, or part of an acceptable norm.... The study showed that only when unmet needs are brought to conscious awareness and carry strong emotional valence are people capable of acting to change the situation.”

(Moghaddam et al., 2007, in *Toward a Global Psychology*)

# Chapters 5-9 in Liberation Psychology (Montero & Sonn, 2009):

- 5. Liberating South African Psychology: The Legacy of Racism and the Pursuit of Representative Knowledge Production**  
Norman Duncan and Brett Bowman
- 6. Immigration and Identity: The Ongoing Struggles for Liberation**  
Christopher C. Sonn and Raylene C. Lewis
- 7. Reflections on Liberation Psychology in Action in an Irish Context.**  
Geraldine Moane
- 8. Liberation Movements During Democratic Transition: Positioning with the Changing State**  
Cristina Jayme Montiel and Agustin Rodriguez
- 9. The Game of War: The Liberating Action of Games in a Context of Political Polarization**  
Alejandra Sapene-Chapellin



# Chapters 10-19 in Liberation Psychology (Montero & Sonn, 2009):

## **10. Liberating the *hijab***

- Noraini M. Noor

## **11. Development of a Historical Memory as a Psychosocial Recovery Process**

- Rosa Lía Chauca S. and Sandra Fuentes Polar

## **12. Psychological Accompaniment: Construction of Cultures of Peace among a Community Affected by War** - Stella Sacipa Rodríguez, Claudia Tovar Guerra, Luisa Fernanda Galindo Villarreal and Raul Vidales Bohórquez.

## **13. New Challenges for the Psychology of Liberation: Building Frameworks for Social Coexistence** - Eneiza Hernández

## **14. Liberation Psychology on the Street: Working with Youngsters who have Lived on the Streets of Caracas** - Manuel Llorens

## **15. Gendering Peace and Liberation: A Participatory-Action Approach to Critical Consciousness Acquisition among Women in a Marginalized Neighborhood**

- Violeta Luque-Ribelles, Manuel García-Ramírez and Nelson Portillo

# Glimmers of Hope in the Latin Context: Some Structural Peacebuilding

- Growing Educational Opportunities
- Growing Democratic Participation
- Growing Free Press
- Active NGO Networks
- Academic-Civil Society Links with Emancipatory Agendas