

The Colonization of the Maternal Gift Economy by Patriarchy and Market Exchange

their babies





Mothers give
unilaterally to children



- Children can follow the maternal model and take turns

And they give to each other



- The unilateral gift model is much more important and widespread in our society than we believe. In fact it is the basic human model and logic of life that is necessary in early childhood but gets altered as children grow up and as societies develop and change. A gives to B is the original thread from which the complex social fabric is woven. I give and you receive is the basic human interaction. Quid pro quo is not the earliest model though babies do take turns and imitate their motherers. The playful interaction between mothers and children is based on imitation not obligation.

- The basic human economy is nurturing: free giving and receiving and giving again to others or taking turns, allowing the gifts to circulate.
- Gifting is intentional provisioning, recognizing the need and making or procuring something to satisfy it. It is often work for the giver even though it is free to the receiver. It is universal because it is necessary.
- The maternal gift economy is the first economy and establishes a logic of solidarity as well as the first relations of mutuality and trust.
- Pre-market societies elaborate the relations of gifting into cultures of community care and respect for each other and for Mother Earth.

- Market exchange, quid pro quo, especially as mediated by money, creates an opposite logic and mindset
- Patriarchy supplies the motivation for domination (of others, of the Mother, of Nature) and accumulation of riches that fuels the exploitation of and plunder of free gifts at all levels.
- Patriarchal Capitalism plunders the gifts, accumulates them as capital and reinvests them in many ways to plunder more.
- Societies based on market exchange elaborate the logic and the relations of plunder into the collective mindset and values, creating competition, egotistic individualism and a hunger for power over others.

- Surplus labor is the part of the labor of workers that is not remunerated by the capitalist. It is a gift to the capitalist though it is forced from the workers.
- In 2012, time use surveys and output based estimates were used to calculate the USA's 2011 Gross Household Product (Gift work) as 11.6 trillion dollars (as compared to a US Gross Domestic Product of 13.3 trillion). That is just two trillion dollars less than the monetized economy. (Ironmonger and Soupourmas)
- If we add to this free production the so called global 'ecosystem services', which have been estimated at some \$125 trillion a year compared to the worldwide monetized economy's \$75 trillion GDP, (Costanza et al. 2014) that is, 50 trillion more, we can see how the market economy is not autonomous but actually floats upon a sea of gifts.

- Since everyone is born into a maternal gift economy, everyone originally has the gift model, and it persists to some extent even in the Capitalist economy. We do not recognize our own caring and peaceful values as economic but attribute them to an individual moral or ethical faculty. We do not recognize that we are all engaged in a collective problem or circumstance with a collective solution. Rather we hope powerful – usually patriarchal - individuals will set things right. Or we blame them for making them wrong.

Patriarchal Capitalism exploits the gift economy at many levels

- Within the individual consciousness
- In the family
- Between males and females
- Through paid labor in the market
- In lies and subterfuge, advertising and propaganda
- In politics
- In academia
- In the many relations between humans and nature

Colonization is the implementation of the parasitism of the Patriarchal Capitalist exchange economy upon the maternal gift economy at an *international* level.

- Differences in levels of life and/or of development of indigenous market economies allow a significant flow of gifts from the host country to the parasite country or corporation.
- In the colonizing country the more affluent level of life allows high prices for goods that can be paid very little to workers in the host countries, causing a large gift to the colonial investors.
- This flow is often secured and kept in place by patriarchal military might.

- There are presently many other ways of keeping colonized countries in line and of subverting the governments of those that are on the 'to do' lists of the colonizers.
- Organizations like the IMF, the World Bank and many 'charitable organizations' keep poorer countries in line by dangling gifts in front of them with strings attached.
- Economic hit men find ways of tying aid to mega profits for the investor country.
- Corporations, like national governments now bribe, spy, cause invasions or convince leaders and populations while causing changes in local and international laws

Pyramid structures repeat at all levels, with
unseen gifts flowing upwards



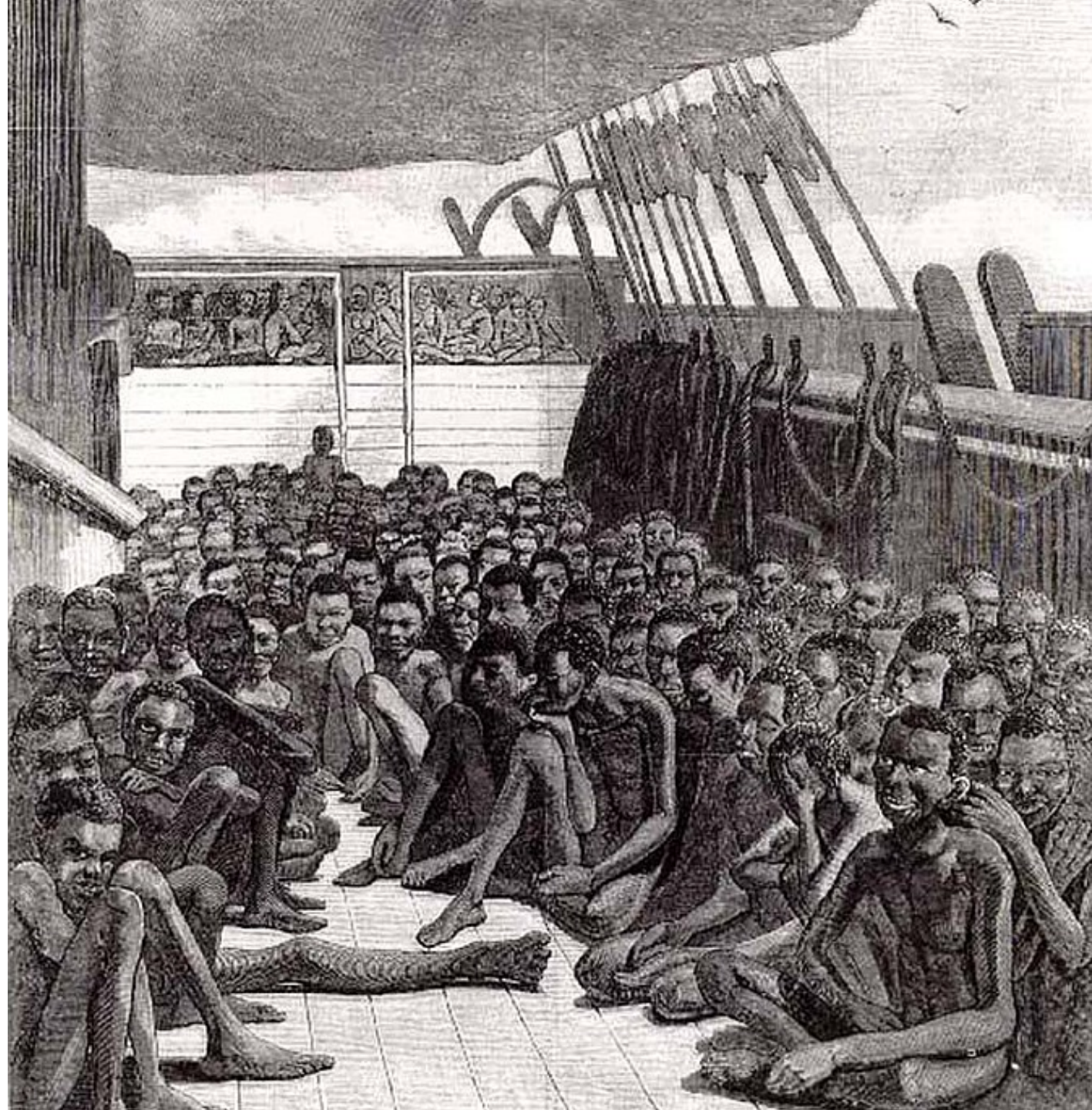
Next slide 1860

The slave deck of the bark Wildfire

Although international slave trade was illegal in the USA after 1807 many illegal attempts were made and there was still legal trade internal to the country until the Civil War.

The wealth of the Southern States as well as the country as a whole was created by forced slave labor that was free – a ‘gift’ -to the ‘owners’.

People calling for reparations now calculate the amount ‘given’ as 10 to 12 Trillion Dollars

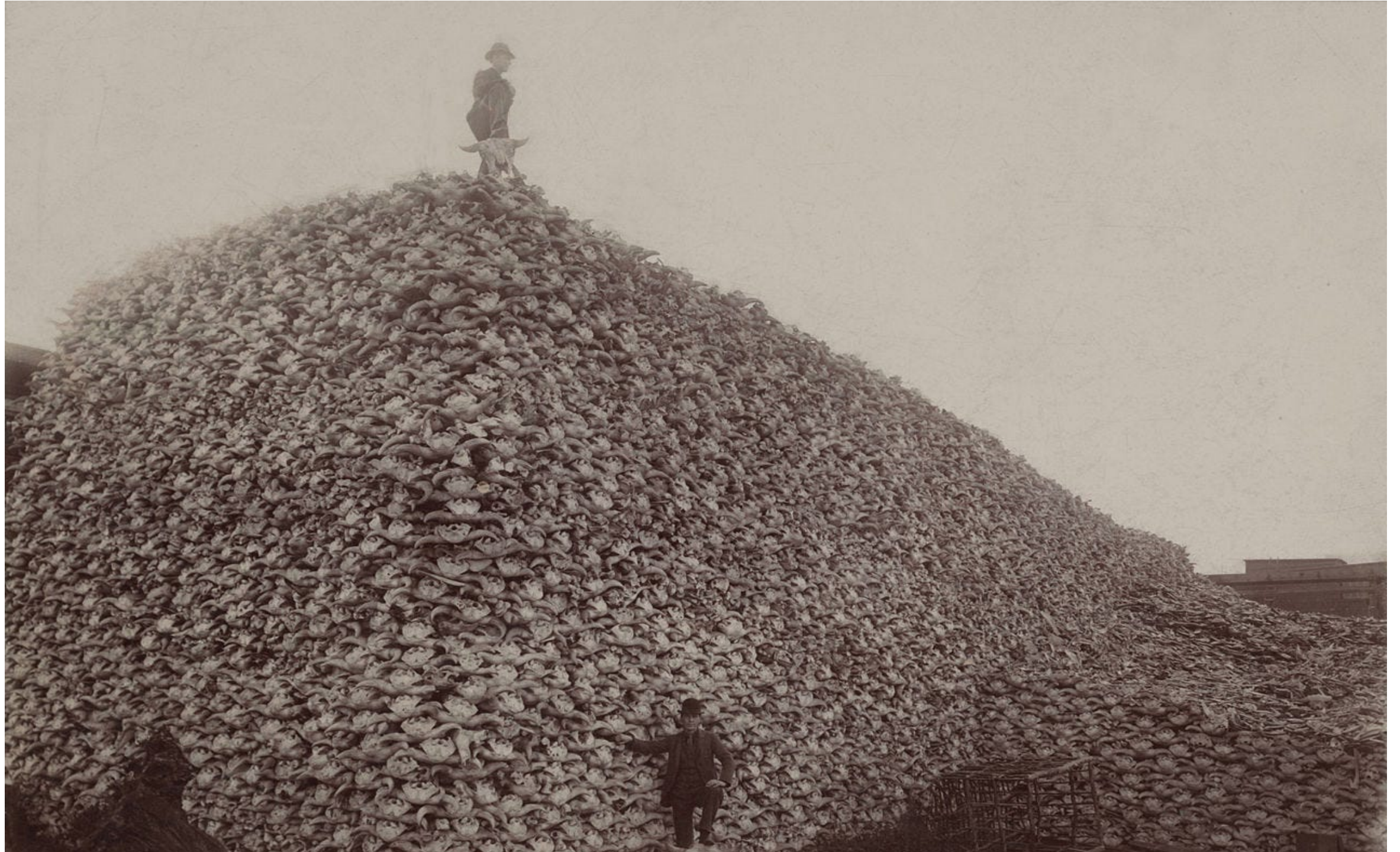


- Under British colonialism in 1876-1878 there was a great famine in India where 9 million people died because in spite of a drought the British insisted on the production of cash crops for export and provided little or no relief for the population.
- Previously local rulers had kept stores of grain to be used in such occasions by the population



India
1876

- The next picture was also taken in 1876. It shows a mountain of many thousands of skulls of buffalo killed by the settlers for 'sport' or simply to deprive the Native People of the abundant source of their thriving lives. The gifts of the buffalo were not being taken to give them to others but simply to deprive the Native People of them so the settlers could take possession of the gifts of the Natives' land.

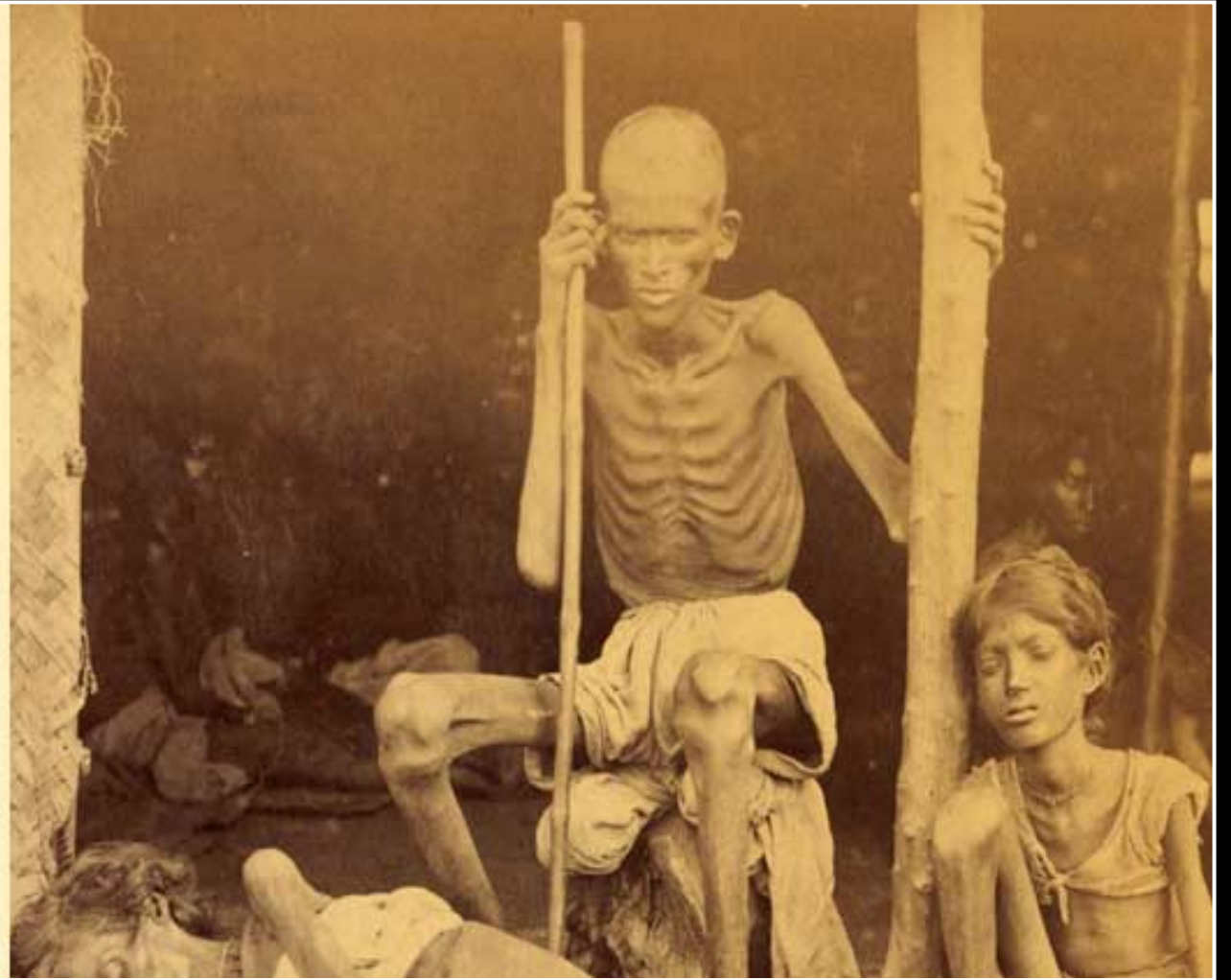


A settler dinner party of the epoch



Jumping forward to the 20th century

- Churchill caused a similar famine to happen in India in 1943 for the same reasons and in the same way.

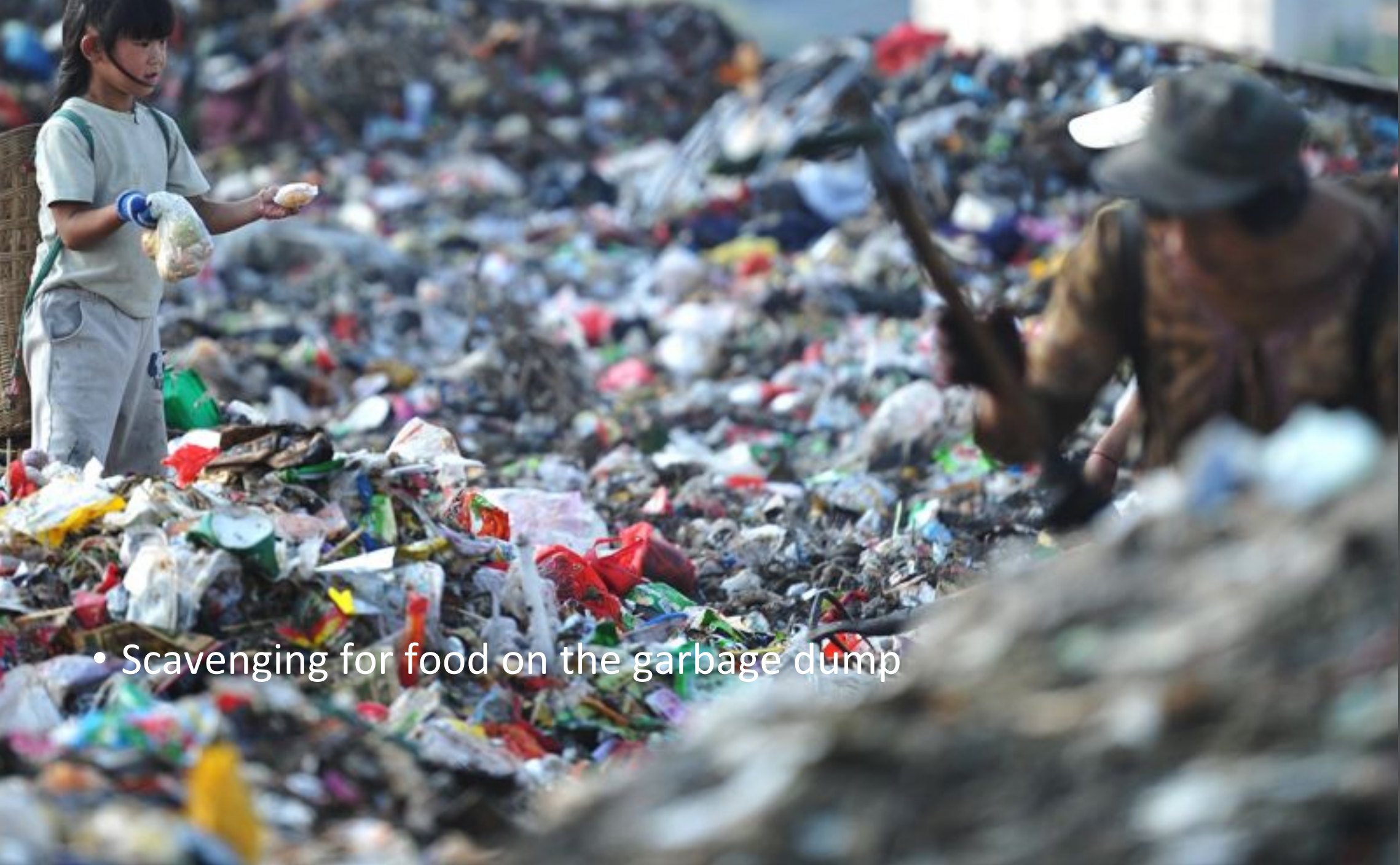


Churchill and Famine in India 1943

'Jumping forward again to the more recent economic colonialism that we call 'globalization'



2017 Child cobalt miners in Congo for Apple, Google, Dell, Microsoft and Tesla



- Scavenging for food on the garbage dump



580 x 435



| SShopping



Yemen 2019



770 x 513

Overloaded boats capsize and many die 2018



When they arrive: refugee camps





Central American drought.

Economic Colonialism also causes climate change making migration necessary for survival



2019 “The people migrating to the North are going where their money went “ Charito Basa.

The money was given free to the North as profit of colonialist corporations

Here are the effects of over consumption on the colonizing consumers- ourselves - a desperate exhaustion and the unmothering and abandonment of our children to a giftless future.

