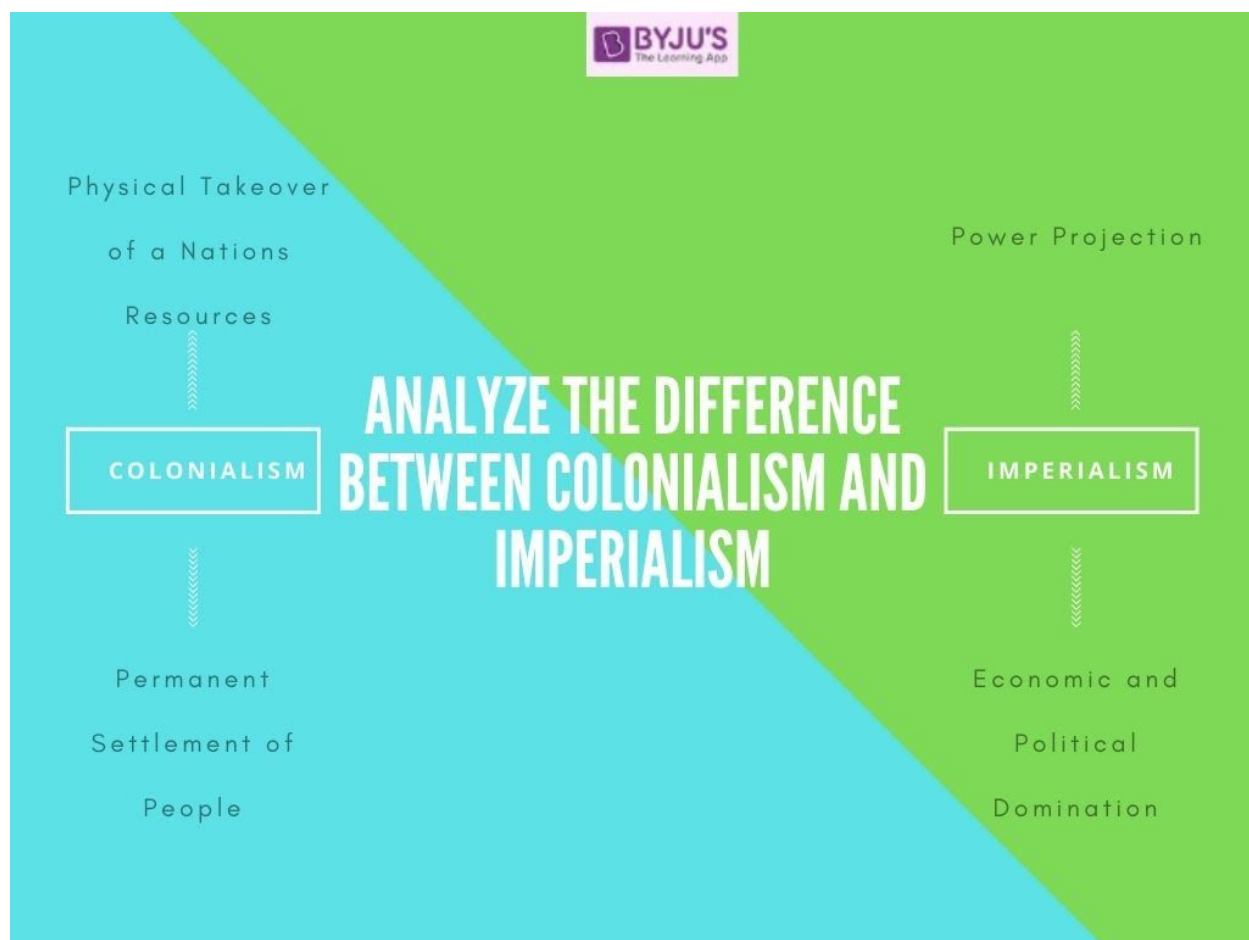


Difference Between Colonialism and Imperialism

Both Colonialism and Imperialism mean economic and political domination of the other. As a result, both are hard to differentiate at times

Yet they are two words with totally different meanings. Colonialism is where one country physically exerts complete control over another country and Imperialism is formal or informal economic and political domination of one country over the other.

In a nutshell, colonialism can be thought of as the practice of domination and imperialism as an idea behind the practice.



Keeping the context of the IAS Exam in mind, this article will extensively highlight the differences between colonialism and imperialism

Differences between Colonialism and Imperialism

Colonialism	Imperialism
Colonialism is when one country physically exerts its domination, either through a combination of war and diplomacy, over another country with a view to exploiting its resources	Imperialism is when one country is involved in creating an empire and expanding the borders in order to project its power.
In colonialism, there will be a movement of people to the new territory, becoming permanent settlers in the process	Imperialisms is just about exerting control over the conquered regions either through direct governance or through indirect control mechanisms
Colonialism in the modern sense dates back to the 15th century when Europeans began to colonize large swathes of Asia and Africa	Imperialism is far older than colonialism dating back to ancient empires in history but is more commonly associated with the Roman Empire
Colony comes from the Latin word <i>colonus</i> which means 'to farm'	Imperialism comes from the Latin word ' <i>imperium</i> ' which means to 'command'
Examples of colonialism are to be found in the takeover of India, Australia Southern and Central Africa by the British and Western and North Africa by the French	The Scramble for Africa in the 19th Century and the Chinese domination of Vietnam from 111 BC to 983 AD are examples of Imperialism