COUNTRY: Colombia

FORUM: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

QUESTION OF: Effects of Foreign Companies on the Economies and Politics of Central American Nations

With the exploration that started in the early 1500s, results were the establishment of colonies in many parts of the continent. Britain's biggest rival at the time, which occupied a large part of the Central American area, was the other major colonialist, Spain. Meanwhile, Scotland formed an alliance with Britain because some of their colonial plans did not come true. Since the discovery of America and the Central America region, European countries have exploited the raw materials on the continent and used the workforce of local people.

Although the region has got its independence, the presence of foreign companies today has a similar effect. Even if these companies have benefits like expanding trades, they can cause inequality and problems about workers' rights.

There are some precautions taken to prevent these problems. Trade has been encouraged with the Central American common market (CACM), thanks to the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) the exports between America and Central American countries are aimed to increase, financial and educational reforms have been made, business environments have been improved.

To talk about the effects of this capitalism on Colombia; the Spains, who established permanent colonies in Colombia starting from 1525, exploited the country's raw materials and local people. Most of the local people lost their lives due to diseases coming from Europe and they were forced to work by the Spanish. The slaves brought by colonial states from Africa to improve the decreasing workforce affected the population structure of the region.

So today Colombia’s policy addresses this issue; since Colombia is a member of the World Trade Organization, it implements a foreign trade regime based on free trade.

Colombia's independence resistance against the Spanish, which started in 1810, ended successfully in the next 10 years. However, this colonialism left lasting effects in Colombia, as in other countries.

To find a solution to this issue, the economy can be developed in many areas without being tied to a single area, local products can be used more, development programs that reduce economic inequality and create job opportunities can be implemented, and economic and technical assistance can be received from other Central American countries.

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