

struggle for colonies, of the struggle for economic territory." 16

Further, as Lenin puts it: "The non-economic superstructure set up on the basis of finance capital, its politics and its ideology, stimulates the striving for colonial conquest." He quotes Hilferding, saying: "Finance capital does not want liberty, it wants domination."¹⁷

On the basis of findings by the American writer, Henry Morris, in The History of Colonization, Lenin concludes:

"...that it is precisely after that period [of the enormous expansion of colonial conquests, 1860-1880] that the boom in colonial annexations begins, and that the struggle for the territorial division of the world becomes extraordinarily keen. It is beyond doubt, therefore, that capitalism's transition to the stage of monopoly capitalism, to finance capital, is bound up with the intensification of the struggle for the partition of the world." 18

International competition between monopolies urged the curving out of colonial possessions as exclusive reserves. Territories were being acquired not only for their actual, but also for potential, use, as we mentioned earlier. This competitive struggle, with its economic roots, was intensified by the non-economic superstructure which grows up on the basis of finance capital, its politics and its ideology, stimulating the striving for colonial conquest.¹⁹

Distinctive of this phase are other transitional or contradictory developments, referred to by Lenin as the "semi-colonial states" and considered by him as transitional forms, typical examples of the "middle stage". Also, countries that are officially and politically independent, but which are, in fact, enmeshed in the net of financial and diplomatic dependence.²⁰

Lenin correctly emphasizes the ideological influences that went with imperialism: nationalism, racialism, political reaction, etc., which were